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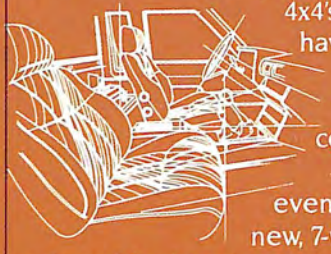

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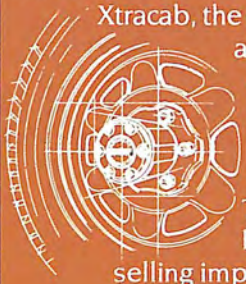

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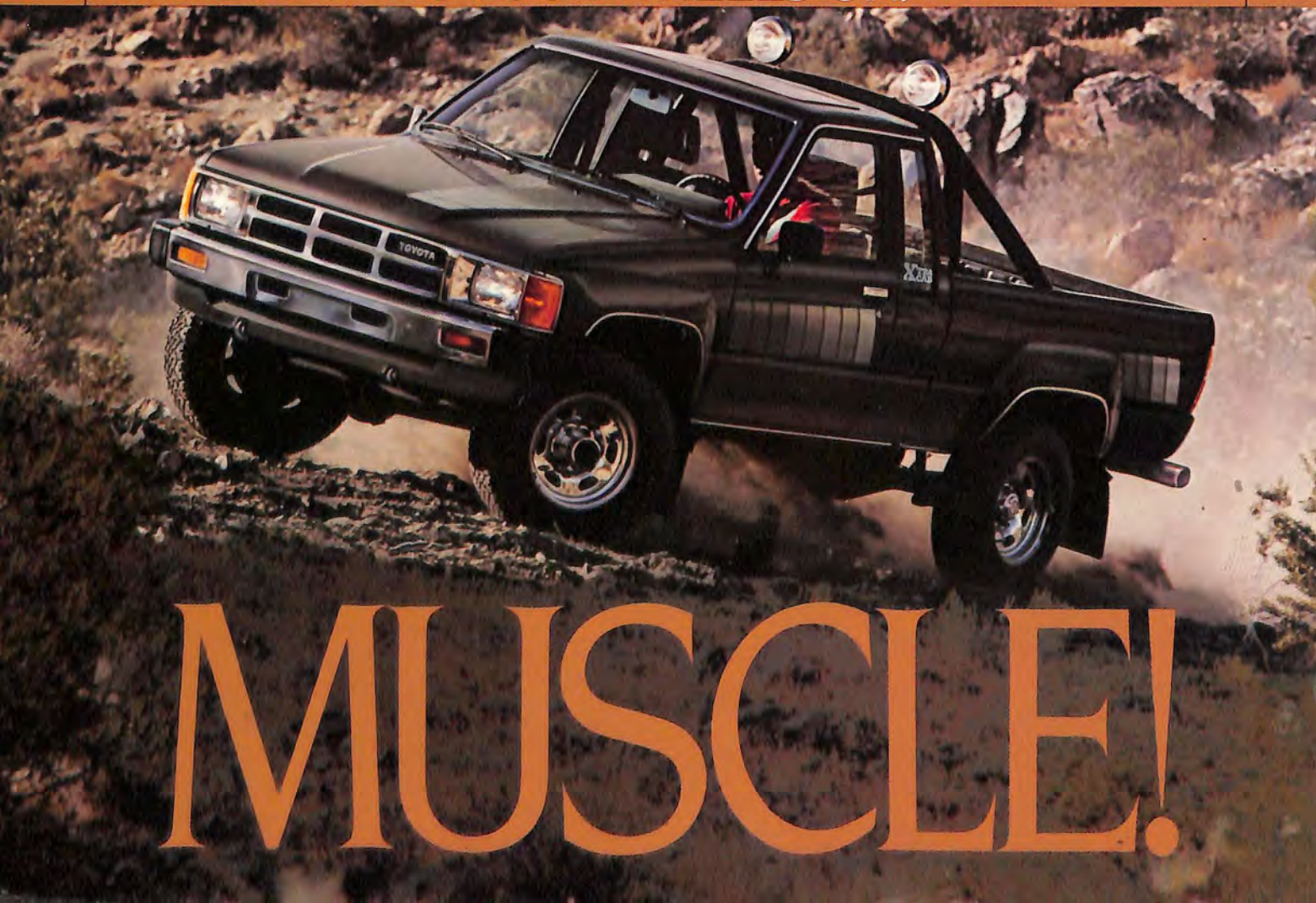

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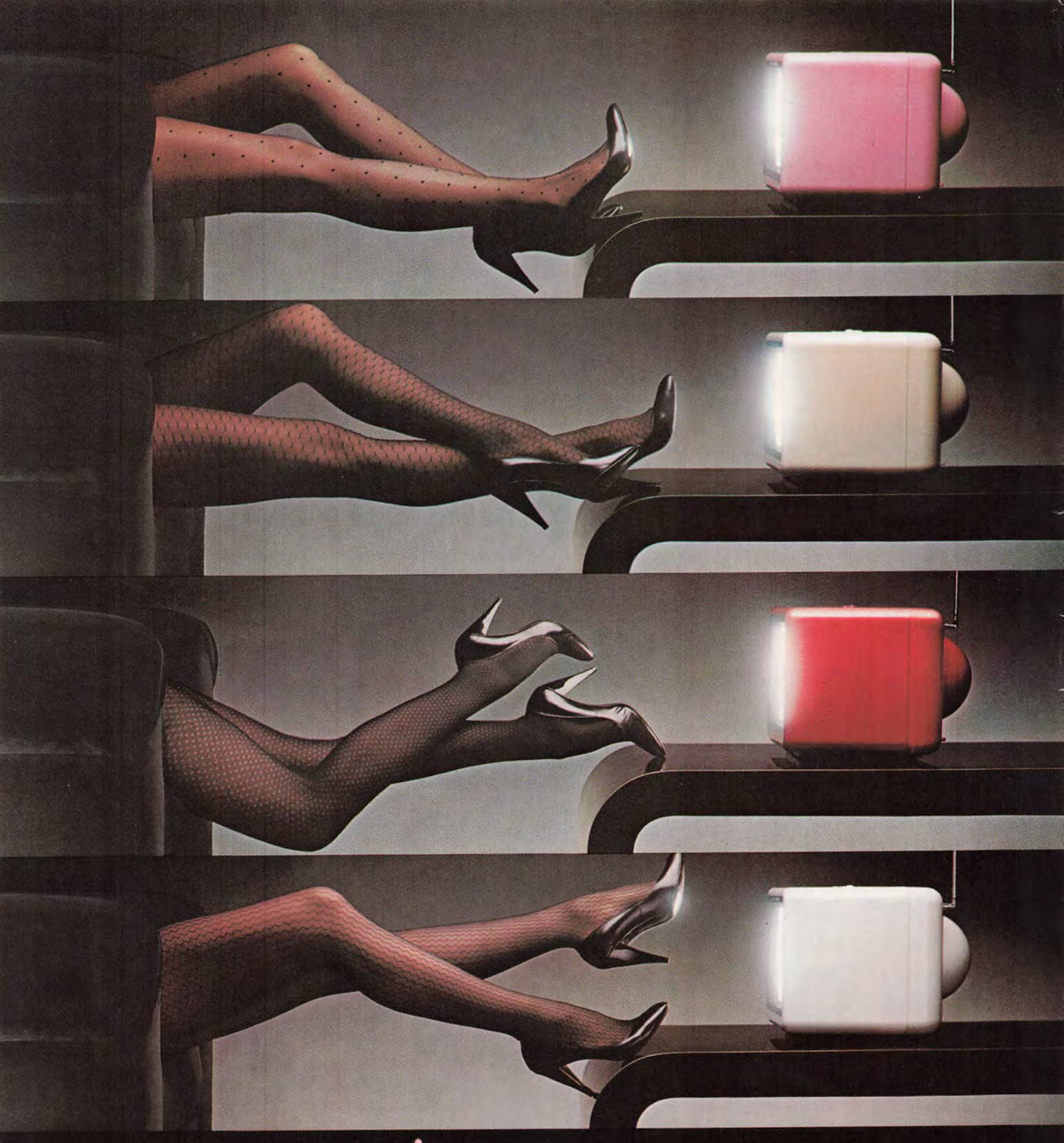

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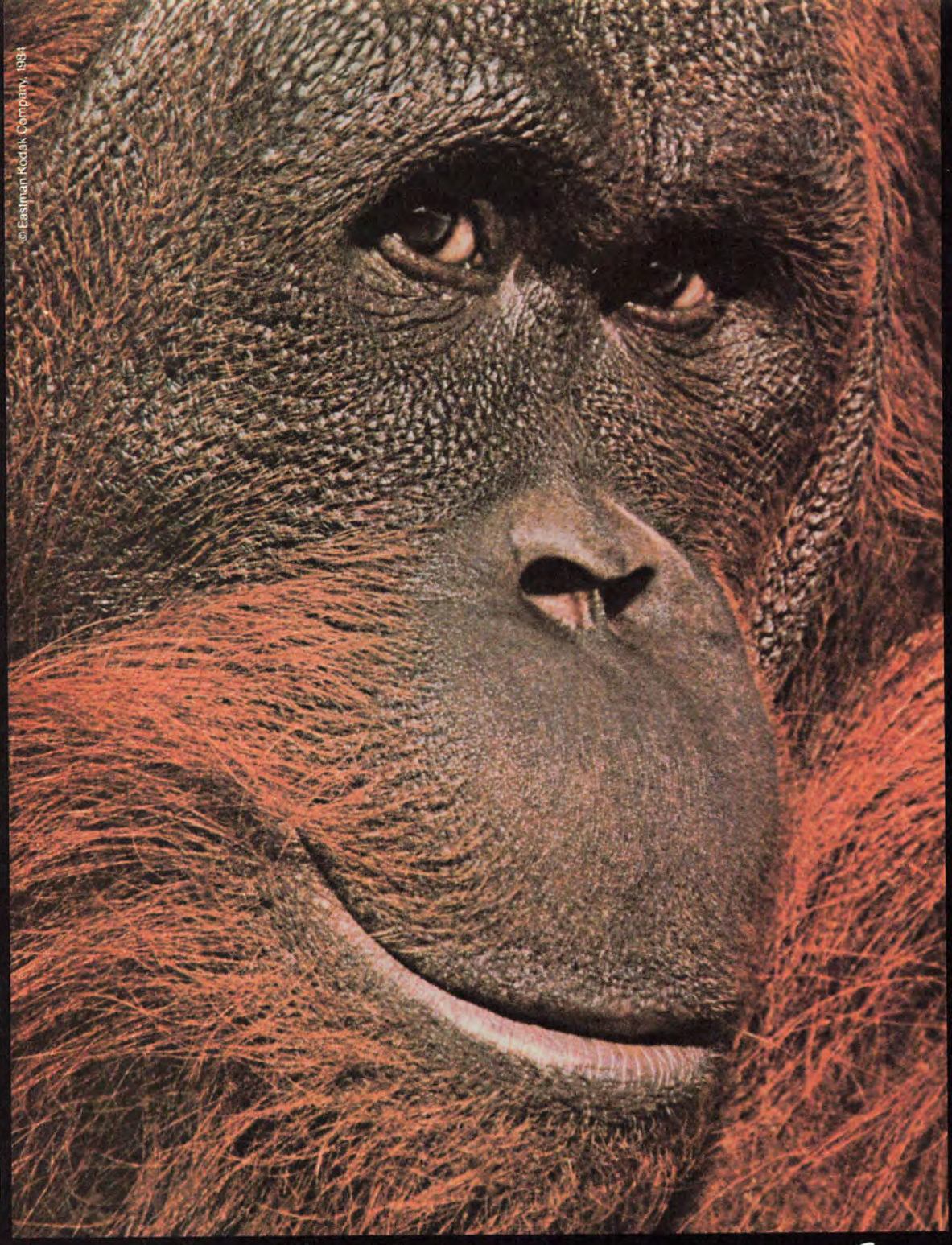

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Letter from the Publisher

On a night in August, fans will fill the newly built Hoosier Dome to capacity for a preseason game, and the Indianapolis Colts—Indianapolis' Colts, not Baltimore's anymore—will take the field for the first time. There will be little or no mention of owner-player disagreements, athletes using drugs, the NFL-USFL rivalry or fantastic salaries. And not much talk, if any at all, of the Olympics, the baseball races or even the presidential race. Just cheers—mostly there will be cheers for the Colts.

In Baltimore, home of the Colts for so many years, there is sadness and hurt, for a great tradition has ended. Memories still stir, but they bring no solace: visions of Johnny Unitas in his high-top shoes, Tom Matte wearing his wristband with the plays written on it, Alan Ameche scoring the sudden-death touchdown that beat the Giants for the championship in 1958, Lenny Moore, Gino Marchetti, Raymond Berry—and Weeb Ewbank, who coached consecutive world champions a quarter of a century ago.

It was unfortunate that the moving of the franchise came about as it did, with harsh words and legal challenges. We do not recall another instance of a sports figure being excoriated as was Robert Irsay, the Colts' owner. The moving vans, loaded with equipment, left Baltimore in the dead of the night and rolled toward Indianapolis. In Baltimore, the citizenry was outraged, starting with the mayor.

One sportswriter said that antitrust laws make it easy for "the modern highwayman"—his term—to move a franchise any time.

Litigation was inevitable. On the same day the Colts left Baltimore, Mayor William Schaefer went to court in an attempt to regain the franchise, but the suit would seem to stand little or no chance. Efforts by the National Football League to block the move of the Raiders from Oakland to Los Angeles have failed. In the light of that finding by the courts, the league maintained a hands-off policy in the latest move.

However, as our writer of the Indianapolis story (starting on page 72) points out, Rozelle did call for "Supreme Court clarification regarding antitrust matters in sports."

If Irsay had no more than threatened to leave Baltimore and had only negotiated with Indianapolis and Phoenix officials, then Colts' fans might have bought a record or near-record number of tickets—as renewed proof of their loyalty—to keep the team. But no, Irsay was determined to move, and nothing would prevent it.

When the new NFL club began to accept season-ticket applications, all 57,000 seats allotted for such orders—$8.1 million worth—were sold within 72 hours. That was 17,000 more seats than Indianapolis officials had promised to sell.

It is not easy to find heroes in these times of greed, self-exaltation, drug abuse, unsportsmanlike action, unconcern and disloyalty among professional athletes. It was even necessary to pass a rule to stop taunting on the field.

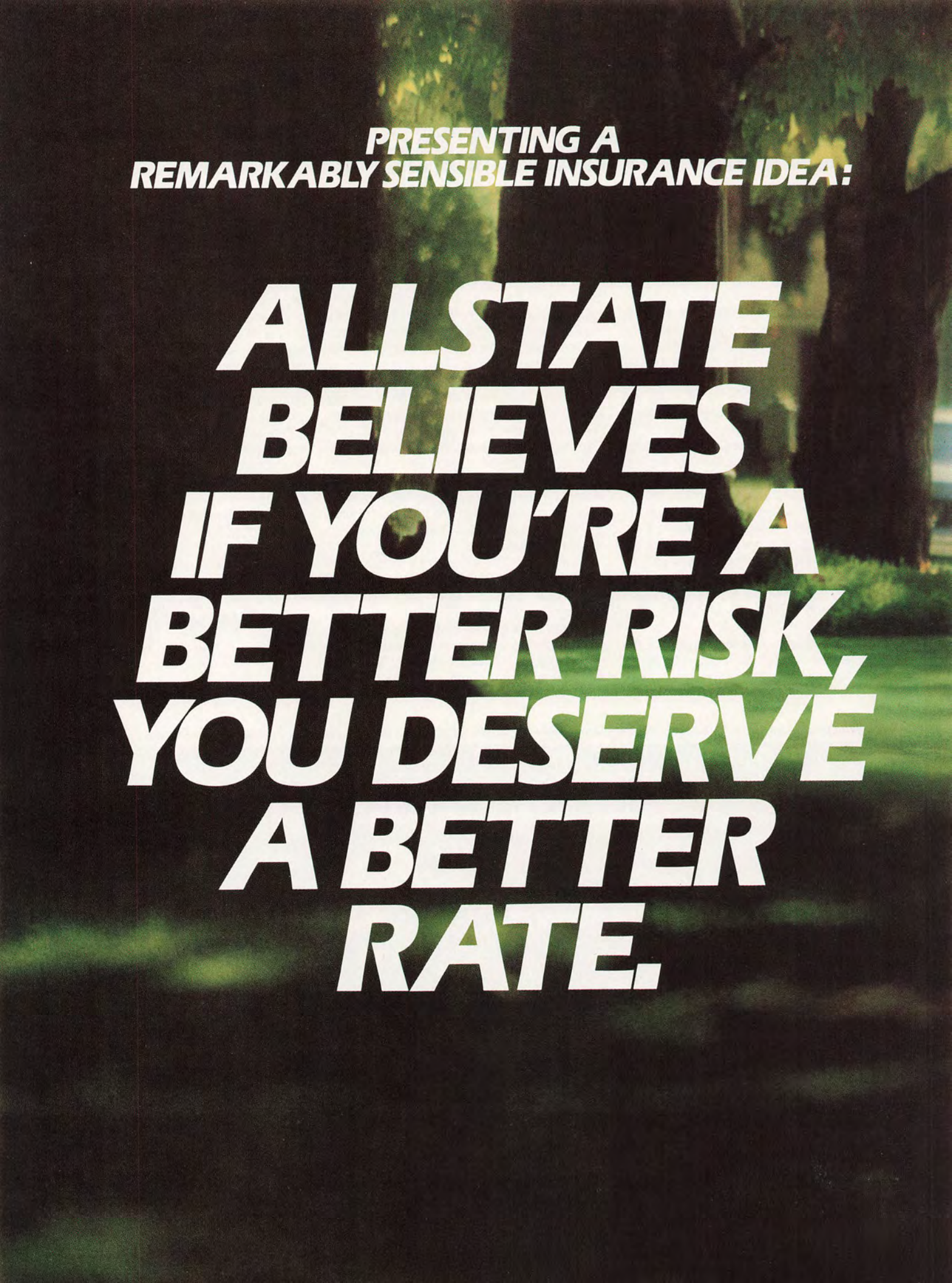
In the euphoria of having a pro football team to cheer for, the Colts to a man begin as heroes in Indianapolis.

Let's hope they remain so.

Jerry McCoin

Publisher

Unforgettable moment for the Colts: Alan Ameche scores in overtime to win the 1958 NFL title. Also shown are Johnny Unitas (19) and Lenny Moore (24).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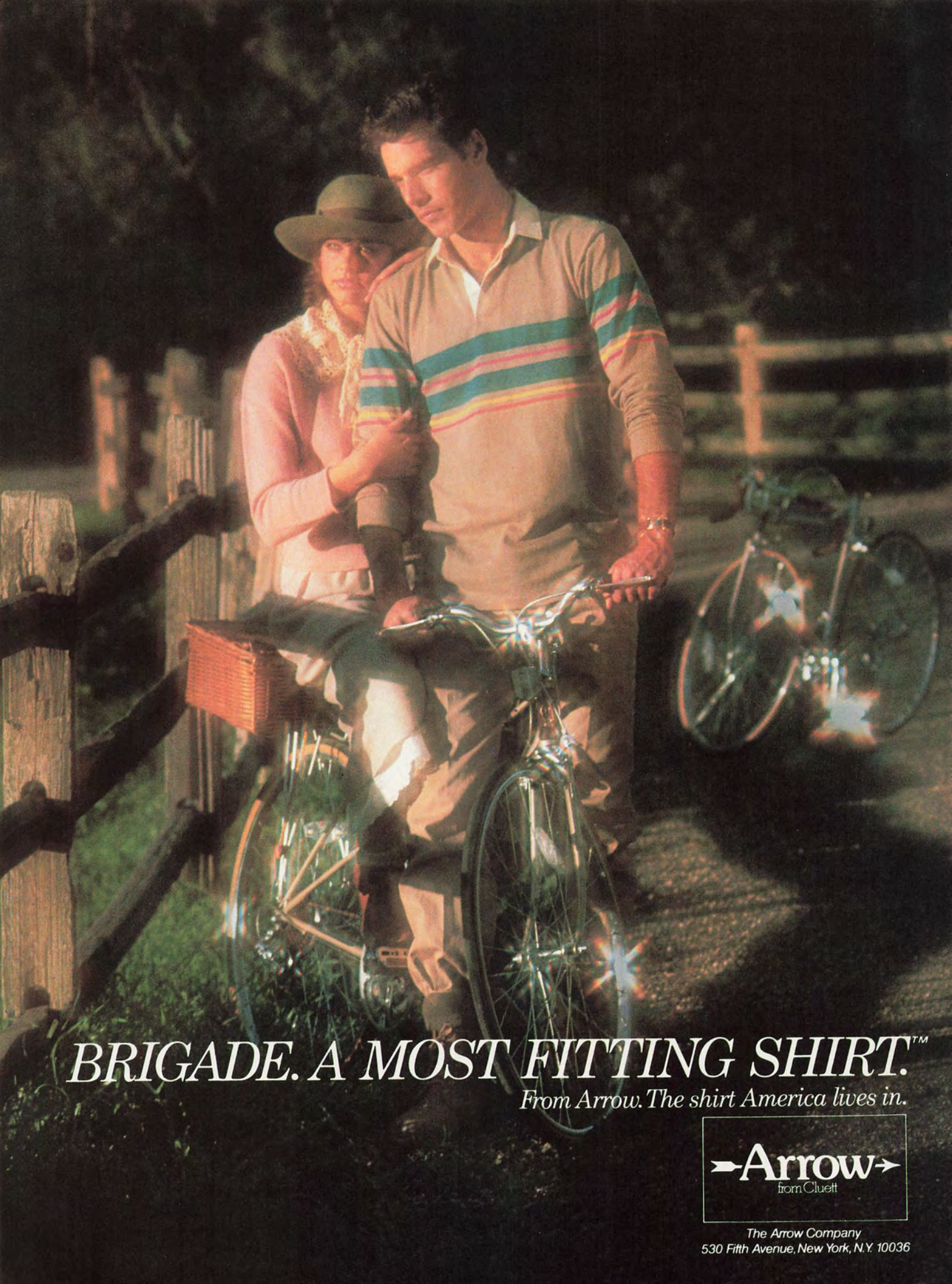
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RAIDERS

A visiting writer was allowed into the cashew factory 10 minutes before the work day was officially scheduled to begin.

Two workers were arm wrestling at a center table near a tapedeck emitting the "Teenage Wasteland" chorus from the popular Who song in a controlled howl. Over in one corner, four others, fetchingly garbed in sweat socks, adhesive tape, body hair and moleskins, were engaged in a card game. They slammed their discards on a bench with inaccurate karate chops.

And outside, on the lawn, an ice cream social was convening, and one of the offensive linemen for the Los Angeles Raiders emitted an animal growl upon discovering that his portion of mocha-maple ripple consisted of one scoop rather than two.

"Sometimes I think I don't belong here. Maybe the Old West. I'm lucky I'm able to play because I have a lot of aggressive things I need to take out."

Thus were the Raiders discovered mentally and physically preparing themselves for last winter's AFC championship game with Seattle. They proceeded to disjoint the Seahawks, which allowed them the opportunity to defeather the Washington Redskins in the Super Bowl.

Afterward their frustrated and perplexed NFL rivals mused: " 'Teenage Wasteland' and mocha-maple. Hmmmmmm. Well, it might work."

So when the 1984 campaign is officially launched, you can anticipate that the Raiders will have switched to a Brahms requiem and pineapple upside-down cake and that they'll continue to confound their pro football rivals and Pete Rozelle's lawyers.

Granted, Jim Plunkett has been revived more times than a grande dame with the swoons. At 36, Cliff Branch is the same age as his quarterback. Lyle Alzado is only a year younger and admits he's sometimes so sore he has to crawl to the bathroom on mornings following football Sundays.

And then you remember.

The Raiders think so much of Marc Wilson, Plunkett's backup, that they signed him to a $4 million contract that could carry through 1988.

Waiting behind long-time stars like Branch, who caught a 50-yard pass and two plays later caught a 12-yard pass for a touchdown in the Super Bowl, are athletes like Calvin Muhammad who is . . . well, a one-man band. A music major from Texas Southern, Muhammad owns three pianos, four guitars, drums, a trumpet, a trombone and enough skills to catch five passes for 112 yards in last year's regular-season game with the defending Super Bowl champion Redskins.

As for Alzado, well, he doesn't feel like he's earned his mocha-maple unless he requires crutches to reach his toothbrush and aftershave on Monday mornings.

"I should've lived in another era," the Raider defensive end decided at one point last season, when his football-field ferocity was being discussed. "Sometimes I think I don't belong here. Maybe the Old West. I'm lucky I'm able to play because I have a lot of aggressive things I need to take out. I'm more at peace now, but I still have that intensity, that anger.

"When I'm ready to retire, my intensity should be worn down. I'll hire a helicopter, freeze my body and drop it in the center of the ocean. Hopefully, somebody will find it in a couple centuries and things will be different. Maybe I can wear a six-gun."

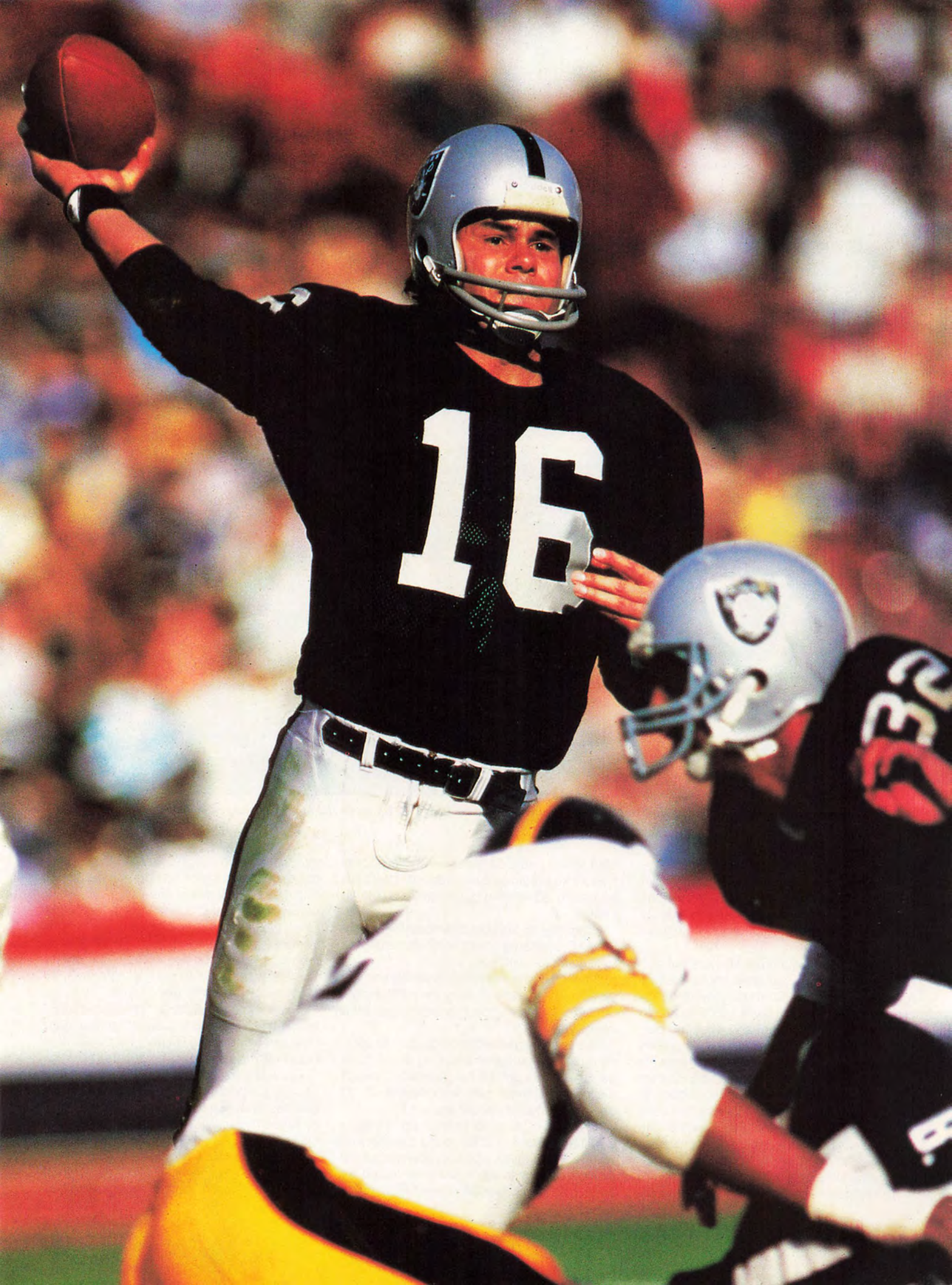
If somebody does rediscover Lyle Alzado in the year 2184, it will likely be Al Davis. The owner of the Raiders has driven to the Super Bowl on more than one retread. And he'll probably live forever, just to confound Pete Rozelle.

The '84 Raider roster lists seven 1984 Pro Bowlers—tight end Todd Christensen, linebackers Rod Martin and Ted Hendricks, defensive end Howie Long, return specialist Greg Pruitt and defensive backs Vann McElroy and Lester Hayes.

They should have had another in the estimation of assistant coach Willie Brown, who is considered to be the best ever to play in the Raider defensive backfield. He nominated cornerback Mike Haynes.

(continued)

Plunk your moola on this man. Jim Plunkett has quarterbacked the Raiders to two Super Bowl titles in the last four years.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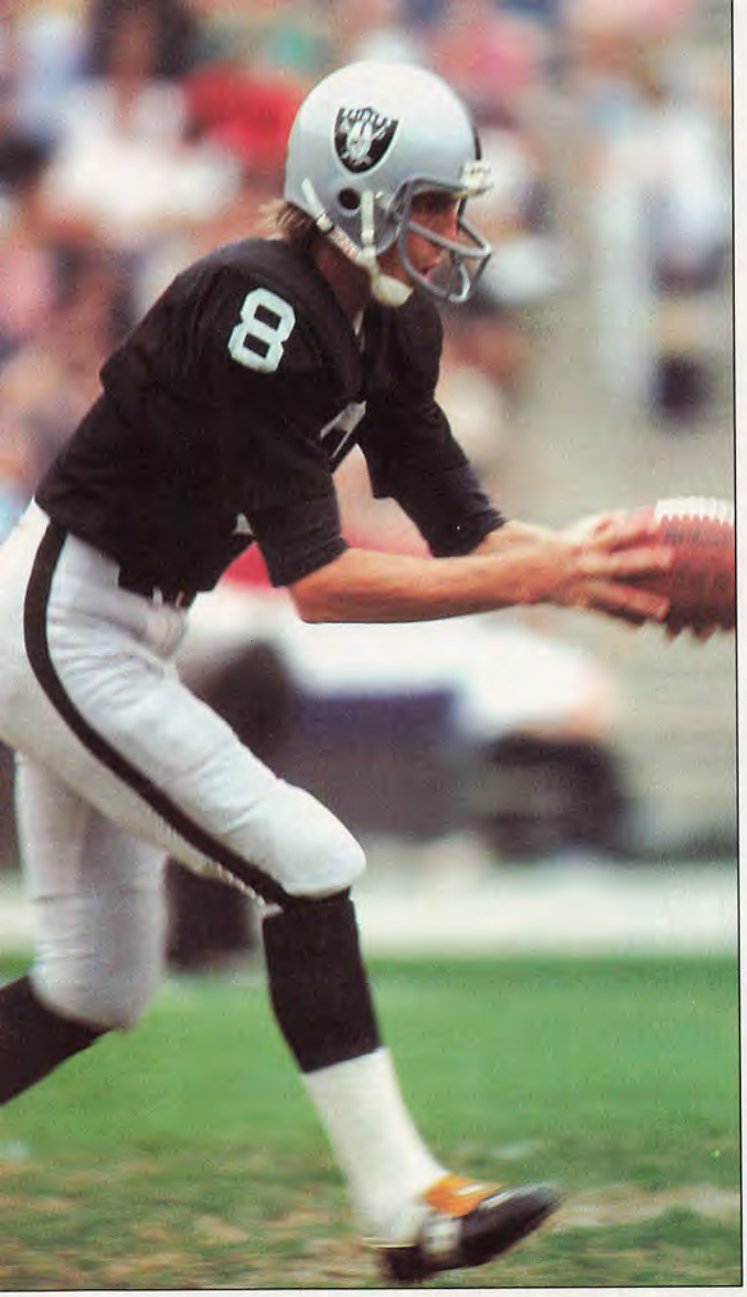
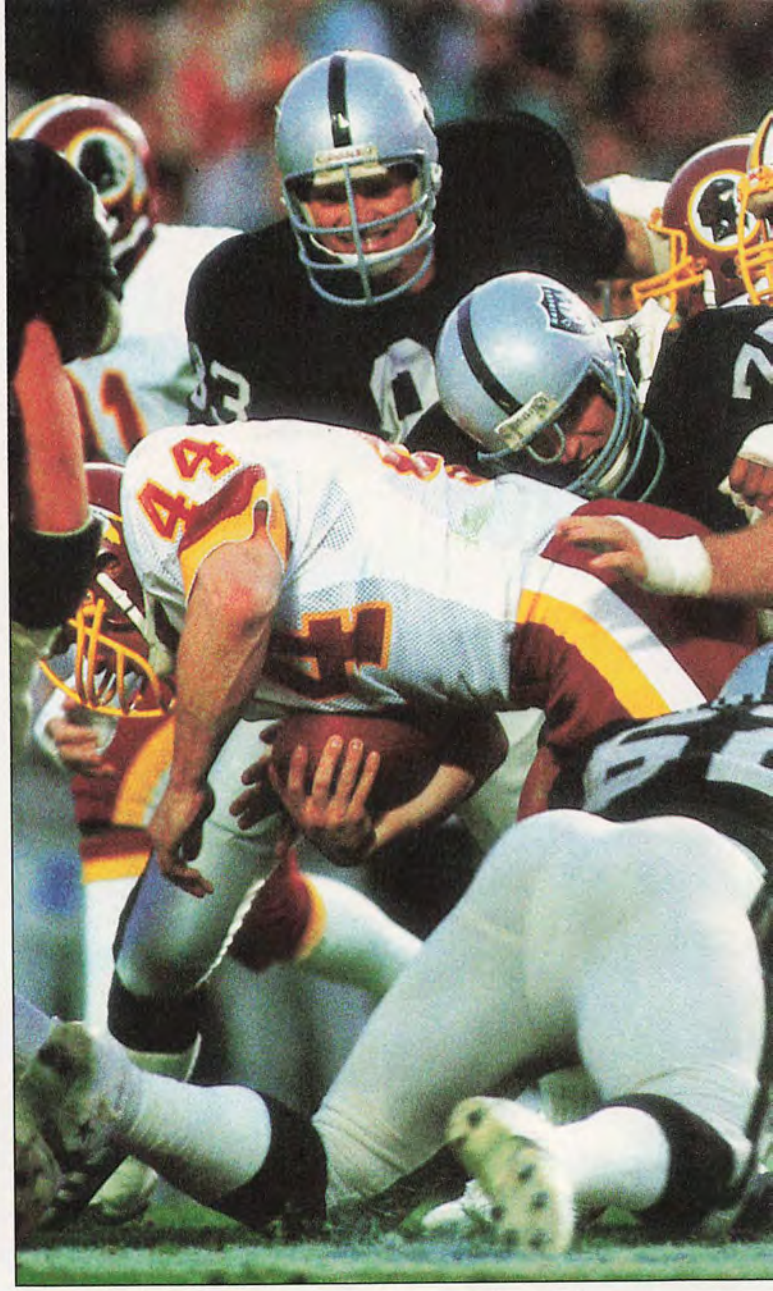




The best Guy on the Super Bowl champions is veteran punter Ray. Howie Long (75) brings an end to a lot of plunges, including John Riggins'.

(Los Angeles Raiders continued)

"In him, I see all the things I taught myself—the determination, the techniques," Brown explains. "He'll listen to you, but you don't have to do much coaching. It's like you ordered him out of a catalog. It's just a delight to have him around."

In a way, Davis did order Haynes out of a catalog, but it was slammed shut by Commissioner Rozelle and an NFL deadline on player trades. When Haynes threatened to sue the NFL for $5 million and when the cornerback arrived for the legal bout with Davis and celebrated agent Howard Slusher in his corner, the NFL sued for peace and Haynes became a Raider. However, it didn't happen until November. Now that Haynes has a full season to work with the Pro Bowlers, the Raiders may be even tougher against the pass than they showed in the Super Bowl, when they twice intercepted Joe Theismann.

The Raider linebackers—Martin, Hendricks, Matt Millen and Bob Nelson—are ferocious. Hendricks should be even more effective than he was in '83 when a groin injury slowed his charge.

Long may be the best defensive lineman in the AFC, and Greg Townsend had a standout rookie season with L.A.

As good as the Raiders proved themselves defensively in playoff wins over Pittsburgh, Seattle and Washington, they were even better offensively.

The passing game can go deep to Branch, as it did on that game-breaking Super Bowl pass. Or it can get the hard yardage through the use of Christensen, who caught 12 TD passes during the regular season.

Drafted by Dallas out of Brigham Young as a fullback, the 6-3, 230-pound Christensen was, according to Cowboy superscout Gil Brandt, "the best guy I had ever tested for athletic ability. He was an incredible competitor. He would go down to South Dallas to play basketball because the competition was better with the black players than with the white players." However, Christensen didn't get along with Coach Tom Landry. Sent to New York, he lasted only two weeks with the Giants, then was finally plucked out of limbo by the Raiders, who have found the right spot for many "wrong" or wronged players.

It will be interesting to see this year whether Plunkett will be able to crank it up one more time and whether the Raiders will continue to tailor their pass offense to his talents if he does.

Plunkett was benched last October when he was guilty of three interceptions and two fumbles in a loss to Seattle. Wilson capably replaced him until the former Brigham Young star suffered a shoulder injury. When Coach Tom Flores handed the football back to veteran Plunkett, he also provided him with different ploys, and Plunkett played virtually error-free

football during the tail end of the championship season.

"We gave him a few more options," Flores says. "We weren't trying to be conservative, but in case there wasn't something open downfield, he could dump it off. That way, we wound up with a lot of second-and-twos."

In an earlier day, the Raiders scorned the eight-yard dumpoff and reportedly became disenchanted with Ken Stabler when he was no longer able to throw deep consistently.

Well, whatever works, mocha-maple or pineapple upside-down cake, Plunkett or Wilson, the intelligent, youthful, 6-6 slingshot who led the Raiders to victory over previously unbeaten Dallas last season. Two weeks later, Wilson tried to atone for an interception with an aggressive sideline tackle and broke his left shoulder. With screws in his shoulder, he was ready for action again by playoff time. But by that time Plunkett was smoking. And so were the Raiders.

"I think I played much better last year than in the other (1980) Super Bowl season," Plunkett says. "I made more big plays in that earlier Super Bowl year, but I'm much more consistent now.

"I'm also much more mellow. I still feel things but I just don't show it. Some things aren't as important any more. They aren't life and death. When I first came in this league, everything I experienced was a big deal."

If you've seen one Super Bowl celebration, you've seen 'em all.

But Marcus Allen was savoring his first celebration last January in Tampa, following a somewhat erratic second season in the NFL. At one point in the year, the former Southern California Heisman Trophy winner complained that the Raiders weren't using him enough. He warned the AFC and NFC rushing leaders—rookies Curt Warner of Seattle and Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams—that they'd understand his difficulties when they returned for their second seasons in the league.

But then Allen capped the season with 191 yards rushing against the Redskins and was named Most Valuable Player in the Super Bowl. That game erased any speculation that Allen might never improve upon his rookie year as a Raider.

"It seems to me that Allen is playing better now than he ever has," observed Chuck Allen, assistant general manager of the Seahawks, who watched his team beat the Raiders in two regular-season games last year.

"You could see a change taking place in Marcus from his senior season at USC," agrees Dick Mansperger, Seahawk personnel director. "He arrived there as a quarterback, he played the first couple of years at fullback, and he really didn't get a chance to play tailback until his senior year. Since then you've been able to see him pick up blocking schemes and gain the freedom to feel comfortable in what he's doing. He has always had speed and an innate sense of timing. Some other backs have that, but they lack the toughness to carry it through.

"All I could think was that I was going to the roughest, toughest football team with the baddest guys in the league."

"I can remember one of our games with Marcus. Our coaches had done a good job of shutting him down. Then he suddenly came up with a great one-handed catch on a poorly thrown pass for a big gain. You can give a tough, competitive player like that a tremendous pounding, but he'll surface somewhere to break your back."

In fact, that toughness, that fierce competitive streak pretty much describes the Los Angeles Raiders.

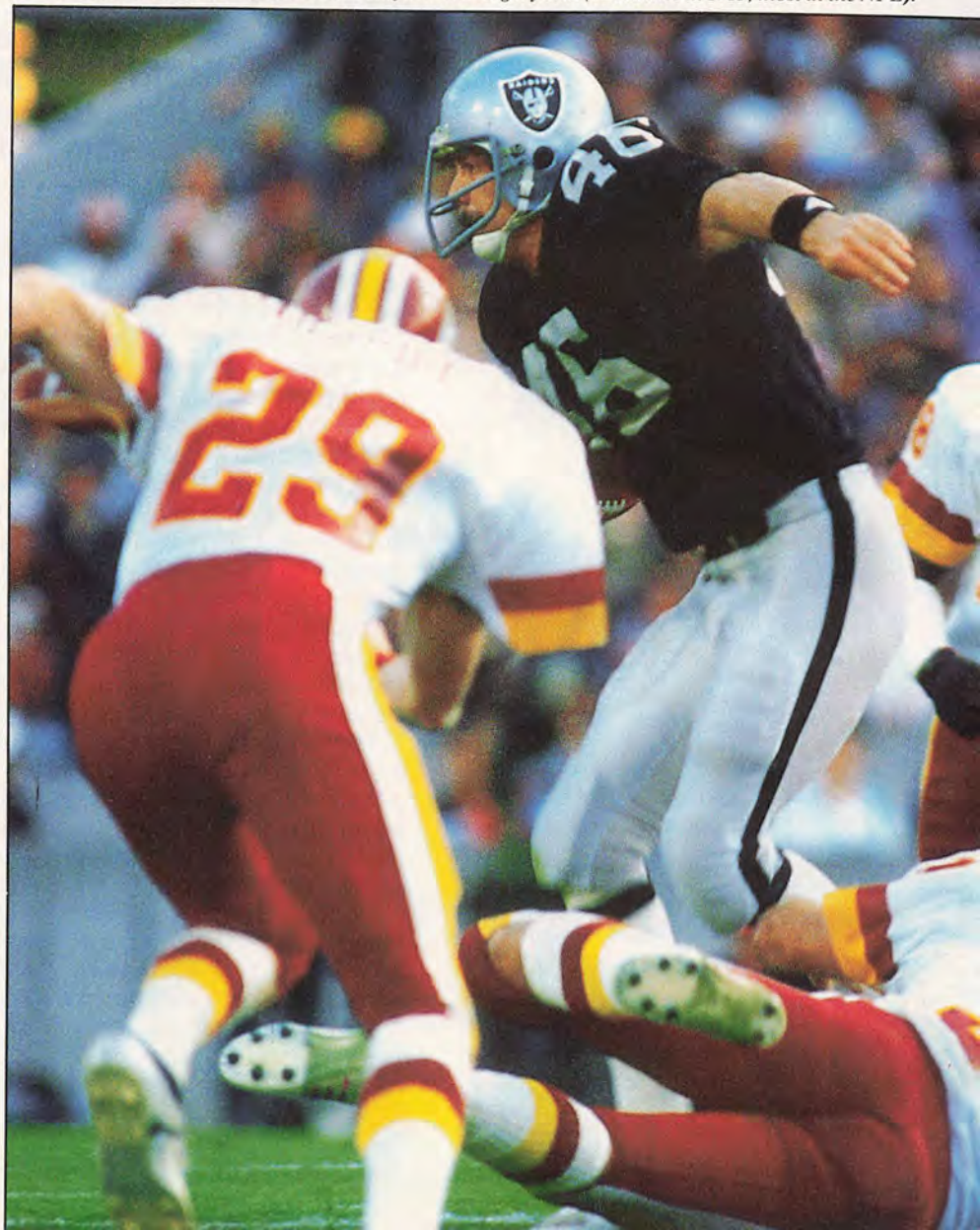
As McElroy—the preacher's son who plays defensive back for the Raiders—recalls when reliving draft day a couple of springs ago on the Baylor University campus:

"All of a sudden, I got a phone call, with a voice saying, 'This is Al Davis.' It blew me away. All I could think was that I was going to the roughest, toughest football team with the baddest guys in the league, and I said, 'Man, my life is going to take a drastic change!' "

Nothing has happened at the team's ice cream socials to cause him to change his mind.

END

The Raiders count on Todd Christensen for hard-to-get yards (92 catches in 1983, most in the NFL).



It's nothing fancy, but it's been a hot seller in such diverse communities as Los Angeles, Calif., and Buffalo, N.Y.

Dick Vermeil, former Philadelphia Eagles' coach, visited Seattle shortly after Chuck Knox, the former Rams' and Bills' coach, was named head coach of the Seahawks last year and said, "One thing I can tell you is that he's gonna run the football. I don't know what personnel he has or who he plans to get. But Chuck Knox is going to run the football."

In Seattle of all places? A year ago it seemed preposterous because pro football fans in that Northwest community had subsisted for years on a starvation diet consisting of a scrawny wing of Seahawk, fricasseed over the years in whirlpool baths, and belonging to Jim Zorn. That was Seahawk football, a sprint-out by the beleaguered Seattle quarterback and a 50-yard rainbow aimed at a pot of gold named Steve Largent.

Well, Seahawk fans now believe. In fact, they are so convinced that the ground attack will be effective that they'll be disappointed this season if the Seahawks fail to improve on Knox's first season when they not only secured their first-ever playoff berth but advanced as far as the AFC championship game against the eventual Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Raiders.

"Those expectations are going to be hard to live up to," Knox admits. "But do you know something, I like that kind of challenge."

They are so convinced that the ground attack will be effective that they'll be disappointed this season if the Seahawks fail to improve on Knox's first season.

And Knox also likes the guy who legitimatized ground-control football in Seattle.

"We knew coming in last year that we needed a running back," he says. "And we felt that this young man could handle our need. A lot of people second-guessed that, wondering who was going to block for him, saying we gave up too much."

It was, in fact, referred to as a one-player draft for Seattle because to get the running back they wanted, the Seahawks gave up their first-, second- and third-round draft positions to obtain the No. 3 slot Houston held in the first round.

The second-guessing lasted just long enough for Zorn to hand the football to Curt Warner, on the rookie's first play in the opening game at Kansas City.

As the Chiefs' Pro Bowl cornerback Gary Green remembers it:

"I saw him break to his left and move into the pack (of tacklers). I thought he was down, tackled, so I hesitated a moment. The next thing I knew he was running down the sideline. I haven't seen a guy like that in this league since Walter Payton. He has total control of his body, great balance. He doesn't give you anything to hit. He's already one of the best in the league."

That first-game glimpse of Warner—which included that 60-yard dash, several more shorter spurts and six pass receptions—has been pretty much a pattern in his life.

The year before he made his debut as a high school sophomore running back, the Pineville (W. Va.) Minutemen went 2-8, a record to be expected of a rural school in a West Virginia coal-mining community. The next three years, though, Pineville compiled a record of 29 wins and five losses, and by the time Warner had been graduated, the team statistician revealed that he had scored 1.2 points every time he touched the football.

He seldom played a full high school game because, according to his coach and teammates, he was just too good for the opposition. In one game, he didn't carry once from scrimmage, yet scored three touchdowns. In another, a 59-26 win, Warner scored 50 points on eight touchdowns, none shorter than a 16-yard run.

Even though he was setting state records, few college scouts traveled to Pineville until Libby McKinney, Curt's eighth-grade English teacher, took it upon herself to compose letters to some 20 universities. "I knew he had the talent, I knew

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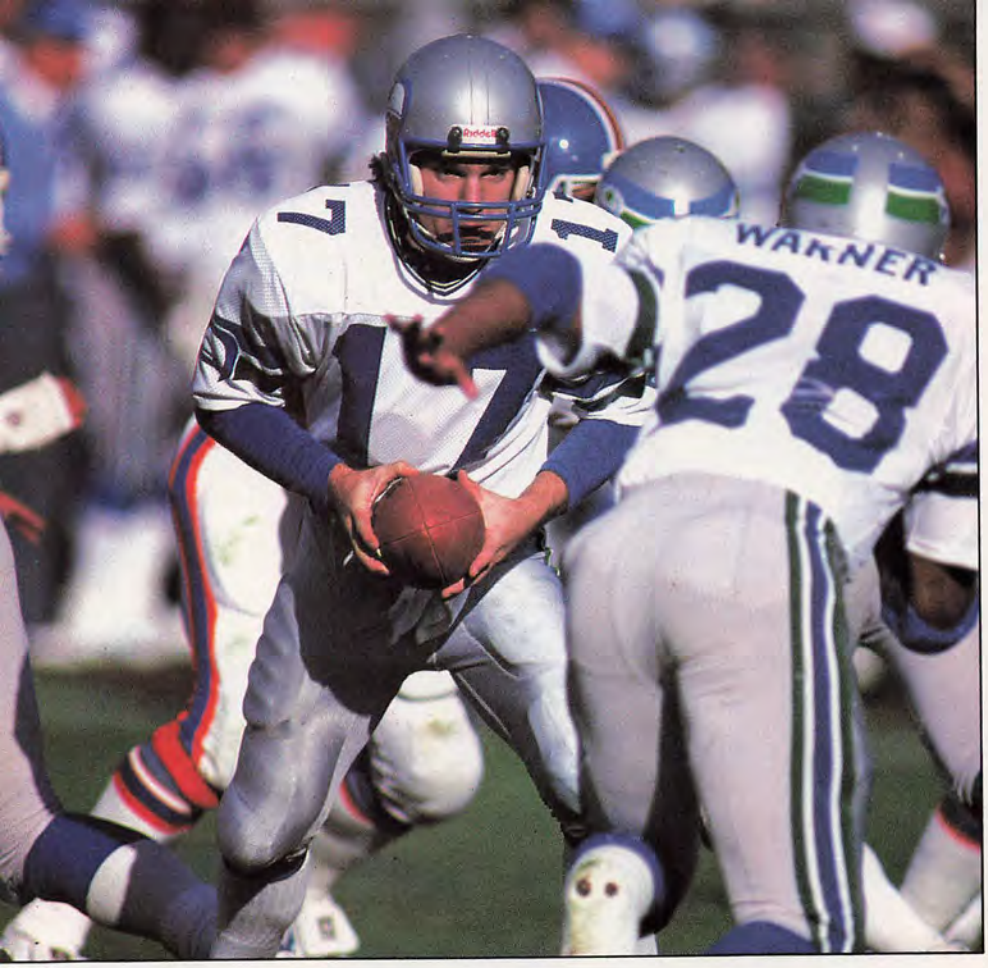
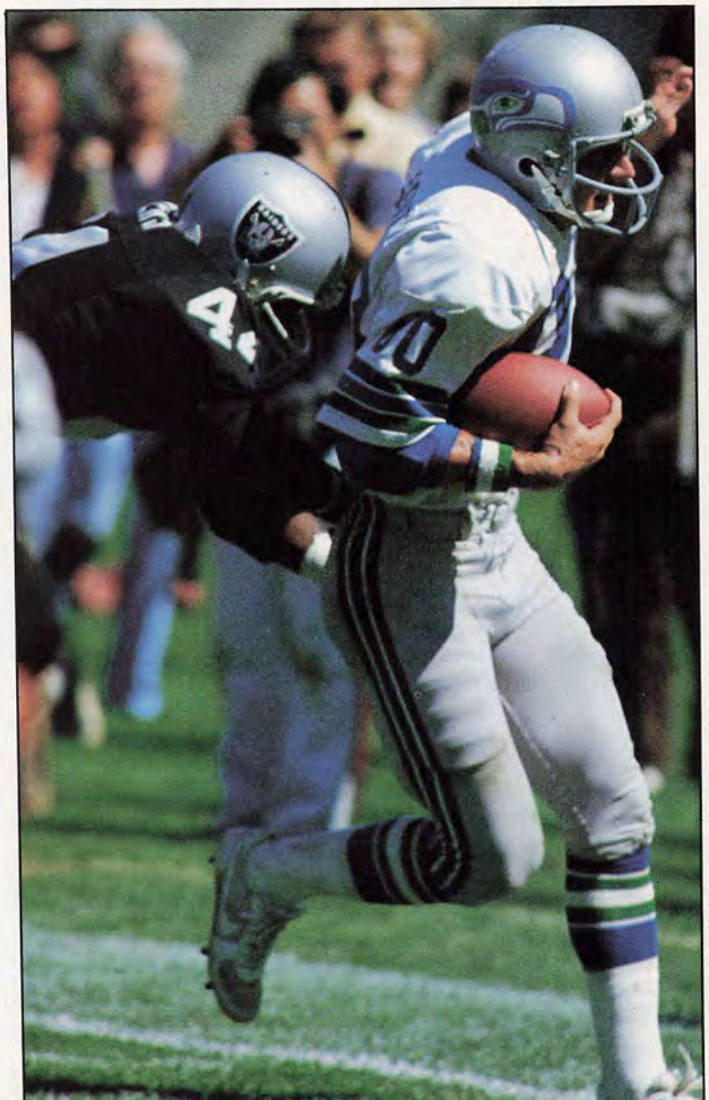
Curt Warner ran off with Rookie of the Year honors in the AFC, leading it with 1,449 rushing yards.





When Dave Krieg (above) isn't passing—he ranked fourth in the NFL last year—he usually hands off to Curt Warner. Good bet: Steve Largent (right) to lead Seahawk receivers again.

(Seattle continued)

he had the drive. I knew he had the ambition, but he wasn't getting any exposure," she explained. All the schools answered except one. Several sent scouts, including Penn State.

In Warner's first college game for the Nittany Lions, against Rutgers, he rushed for 100 yards and quarterback Todd Blackledge, later to be his roommate, remembered:

"Nobody knew who he was. He just burst on the scene. Nobody knew where he came from. From scrimmages in preseason, we knew he had a lot of ability, but we certainly didn't expect him to start that way."

After Warner's junior year, Penn State played in the Fiesta Bowl, and Warner outgained Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Allen of Southern California. In Warner's senior season, Penn State won the national championship in 1982 by beating Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. Warner again outgained the Heisman Trophy winner, who that year happened to be Herschel Walker.

It was a tough act to follow in the NFL, but Warner was equal to the task. At the end of that first season in Seattle, he was the AFC rushing leader with 1,449 yards on 335 carries. He was named the conference Rookie of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year after leading the AFC in rushing 11 of the 16 weeks. He ended the year as the starter for the AFC Pro Bowl team, which happened to be coached by Chuck Knox.

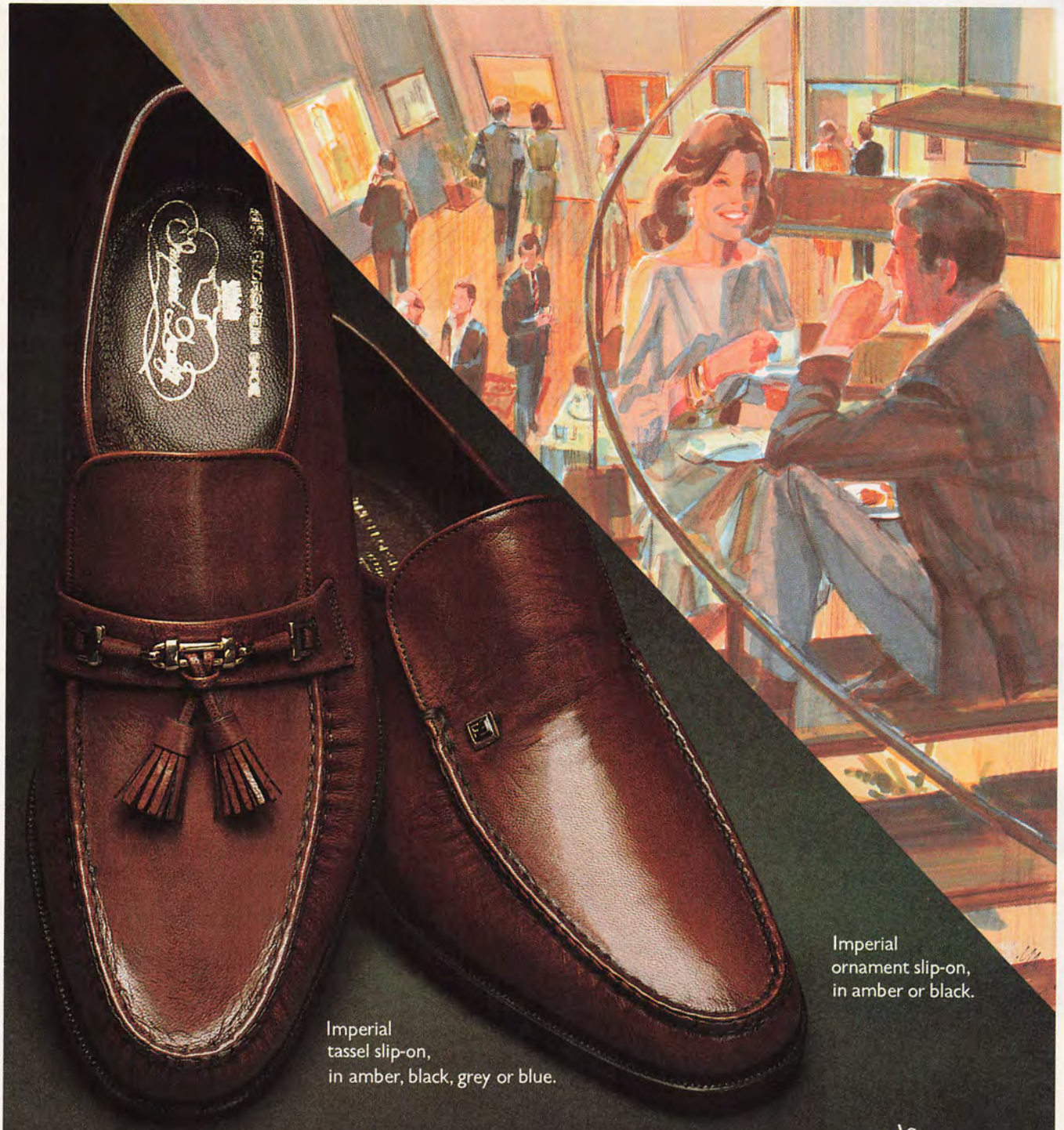
"A great deal was accomplished last year," Knox says. "The offensive line was strengthened (through a trade that brought center Blair Bush from Cincinnati and free agents like guard Reggie McKenzie and tight end Charle Young). We were able to run the football. We had some people playing inside linebacker who had never played there before (like converted tight end Shelton Robinson). We had a free agent nose tackle (Joe Nash, who won the job over Manu Tuiasosopo) and a free agent corner (Greggory Johnson) who ended up starting for us.

"I don't think anybody in the country would have picked the Seahawks to be playing in the conference championship game. When the playoffs got down to the final four, three of the four quarterbacks had played in a Super Bowl . . . (Jim) Plunkett, (Joe) Montana and (Joe) Theismann."

The fourth championship-game quarterback was Seahawk David Krieg, who captivated the press and public because of his background (a free agent from little Milton College in Wisconsin) and his 95.0 efficiency rating, second among AFC quarterbacks.

Krieg was summoned off the bench at a time when Zorn seemed to be struggling. Seattle trailed Pittsburgh 24-0 when Knox finally looked in his direction. Krieg rallied Seattle to three touchdowns in a 27-21 loss and the next week sparked the Seahawks to a 34-21 triumph over the Raiders in his first start of the season.

(continued on page 49)



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ELWAY

Oh, Mile High Stadium will be filled to capacity, all right. It's been that way on football Sundays for 14 seasons, and it won't be any different in 1984. Exuberant Rocky Mountain folks wearing their bright-orange western hats will again romp through the aisles and then stomp their approval or anguish for the next three hours or more. They might be described as . . . well, mile high.

There could be one difference this season, however, which out-of-towners will be able to detect from the press box level. It's likely that the 75,123 fans will be peeking cautiously down the entrance tunnels before they take their seats. And you may notice that the white stallion that rears above the stadium scoreboard has a wild, uncertain look in his eyes.

You see, there's a howitzer parked right in the middle of Mile High Stadium these days. And nobody knows for sure whether it is going to lay siege to AFC enemies as far away as Kansas City and Seattle or whether it just might backfire.

This time around Elway knows the offense and will be dealing with a full deck. Will this be the season he fulfills his promise?

They're still not quite sure about John Elway.

He started his rookie NFL season in an exhibition game against Seattle, coming off the bench in relief of veteran quarterback Steve DeBerg in the second half and immediately leading the Broncos on a nine-play, 65-yard drive that provided a 10-7 win over the Seahawks. He ended that first campaign by once again rising from the bench to replace DeBerg in Denver's losing playoff game with Seattle.

In between those appearances he was alternately cheered and jeered by the Bronco boosters.

At least the fans in Baltimore were more consistent. They never stopped booing the Stanford Siege Gun when he arrived last September to play against the Colts. "If I'm so bad," Elway shrugged at one point, "why are they so ticked off I didn't come to Baltimore?"

The Baltimore fans certainly did want him in the first instance. But when he spurned Coach Frank Kush and Colt Owner Robert Irsay, the Broncos got Elway in last year's celebrated postdraft trade.

This year, at least, Elway has Kush and company right where he wants them—off the Denver schedule. But the painful memories of '83 linger.

Now it is easy to rationalize that a rookie quarterback should not have been expected to electrify the NFL and that 1984 should be Elway's first fair test.

Coach Dan Reeves explains that Elway was so impressive in preseason camp last summer that he felt he had to designate him as the No. 1 quarterback, ahead of DeBerg. When the Broncos began to sputter, Reeves decided the complicated offense which he brought from the Dallas Cowboys had to be simplified for a rookie quarterback. But that, in turn, made the Bronco attack too predictable, and Reeves had to send DeBerg back into the fray.

The Broncos traded DeBerg to Tampa Bay in April and obtained quarterback Scott Brunner from the New York Giants in another trade. Denver also got veteran wide receiver Dave Logan in a trade with Cleveland.

This time around, Elway knows the offense and will be dealing with a full deck. Will this be the season he fulfills his promise?

Much has been promised. He has been described as the greatest quarterback in the history of the college game, one who might make NFL fans forget all about John Brodie, John Unitas and Johnny Blood.

"Elway is probably the premier college passer of all time," commented former Arkansas Coach Frank Broyles after covering a Stanford game for ABC.

"He's supercompetitive and supertalented," says the New England Patriots' top talent scout, Dick Steinberg. "Nobody in the game today has a stronger arm or faster feet."

"John Elway is one of the all-time greats," raves John Robinson, who coached

(continued)

As a sophomore pro, John Elway has the know-how to handle the Broncos' intricate offense.

Riddell
Wilson

Rick Upchurch (80) and Steve Watson—99 catches between them—are primary Bronco targets.

(Denver continued)

against Elway at Southern California and probably will have the chance again as lead man of the Los Angeles Rams. "I compare him to Roger Staubach."

Before Elway had even begun his senior season at Stanford, he was graded by Dallas superscout Gil Brandt on the basis of the Cowboys' exacting one-to-five scale. It measures a quarterback on 11 traits. Elway received the top grade the Cowboys can bestow on throwing short, throwing long, staying in the pocket, on courage, poise and timing. He was rated "very good" or higher in every other category except for scrambling, and, as noted, the Cowboys might get an argument on that from Steinberg.

If they rated football players like thoroughbreds, on bloodlines, Elway might force the Cowboys to invent a new measure of superiority.

His father, Jack, who launches a new career this fall as Stanford head coach in the stadium where his son excelled, was a Washington State quarterback. John's grandfather once played semipro football in Pennsylvania against the Carlisle Indians and Jim Thorpe.

When John was a toddler, his dad was coaching high school ball in Port Angeles, Wash. "Our family has always been competitive," John recalls. "When we were young, my dad would time us in putting on pajamas."

When Jack Elway was on the coaching staff at Washington State, the competition had progressed beyond the pajama game.

"We had a basketball court in our backyard," John's mother recalls. "They made my patio into a basketball court, and I said, 'Where am I supposed to barbecue?' They said, 'Well, you can barbecue on the 10-second line at halftime.' "

"To tell the truth, I fantasized about being a pro basketball player," John admits. "Jerry West always was my favorite player." But by that time John was luring college football scouts from across the country at Granada Hills High School while his father coached at Cal State-Northridge. Later, Jack Elway became head coach at San Jose State.

John was able to pick his college. In fact, he was able to pick his sport because he could have signed a professional baseball contract out of high school and eventually did, between his junior and senior years at Stanford.

He might have been the only collegian in the country that summer who managed to land a $125,000 vacation job. It consisted of a one-year contract to play between June 20 and August 1 for the Yankees' farm team at Oneonta, N.Y. in the New York-Pennsylvania League. He hit .318 in 42 games and fielded 1.000 as an outfielder.

Of course, the Yankees hoped to sign Elway to a major league contract after he graduated from Stanford. That offer gave him the leverage he needed to turn down an offer the Colts said he couldn't refuse.

(continued on page 50)

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TAILGATING, WHERE THE WEATHER DICTATES THE FOOD

Tailgating is the form of football picnicking where the car tailgate serves as the table. As with any picnic, food that is easy to carry and eat is a must. But with temperatures at a football game being so unpredictable, it is more difficult to decide whether the food should be hot or cold. The following menu gives you the option of deciding at the last minute; yet because both soup and sandwich are delicious hot or cold, planning and shopping can be done well in advance.

Cheesy Carrot Soup can be refrigerated or heated before poured into a large vacuum bottle for serving in colored plastic mugs. The filling for Stadium Turkey Pita Pockets can be heated or chilled after preparation and carried in a vacuum bottle, too. At the game everyone can fill his or her own "pockets."

CHEESY CARROT SOUP

¼ cup butter or margarine
2 cups shredded carrots
½ cup thinly sliced leeks or green onions
½ cup water
1 can (11 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cheddar Cheese Soup
1½ cups milk
Shredded carrots or celery sticks for garnish

1. *To serve chilled:* 4 hours before serving, in 2-quart saucepan over medium heat, in hot butter, cook 2 cups shredded carrots and leeks until tender, about 15 minutes.
2. Add water. Reduce heat to low. Cover; simmer 15 minutes or until vegetables are *very* tender.
3. In covered blender container at low speed, combine vegetable mixture, soup and ½ cup milk. Blend until smooth. Blend in remaining milk. Cover; refrigerate 4 hours or more.
4. To serve: Ladle soup into chilled bowls. Garnish with shredded carrot, if desired. Makes 4 cups or 4 servings. Recipe may be doubled.

To serve hot: Follow through step 3, but do not refrigerate. Into 2-quart saucepan over low heat, pour soup mixture. Heat thoroughly, stirring occasionally. Do not boil. Ladle into soup bowls; garnish with shredded carrot, if desired.

STADIUM TURKEY PITA POCKETS

1 can (10¾ ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Celery Soup
½ cup mayonnaise
¼ cup chopped dill pickle
2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
Generous dash garlic powder
4 cups diced cooked turkey breast
1 cup sliced celery
2 hard cooked eggs, chopped
8 pita breads, cut in half
Lettuce if desired
Sliced tomato if desired

1. *To serve chilled:* At least 6 hours before serving, in medium bowl, combine soup, mayonnaise, pickle, onion, parsley, vinegar and garlic powder until well blended. Toss with turkey, celery and eggs. Refrigerate 6 hours or more.
2. Spoon about 1/3 cup mixture into each pita half. Serve with lettuce and sliced tomato, if desired. Makes 5 cups filling or 16 sandwich halves.

To serve hot: In 3-quart saucepan over low heat, heat filling thoroughly. Serve as above.

CREAMY DILLED POTATO SALAD

1 can (10¾ ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Celery Soup
½ cup sour cream
1 tablespoon vinegar
2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
4 cups cubed cooked potatoes
1 cup shredded carrots
¼ cup chopped onion
Salad greens
Tomato wedges
Dash pepper

1. Prepare dressing: In large bowl, mix well first five ingredients.
2. Toss with potatoes, carrots and onion. Cover; refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.
3. Stir before serving. Serve on salad greens; garnish with tomato wedges. Makes 5 cups or 6 servings.

THREE CHEERS CUP

2 cans (10¾ ounces *each*) Campbell's Condensed Tomato Soup

2 cans (10¾ ounces *each*) Campbell's Condensed Beef Soup

4 soup cans water

In 3-quart saucepan over medium-high heat, combine ingredients. Heat thoroughly, stirring occasionally. Makes 9 cups or 10 servings.

Campbell Soup®

FITNESS CENTER

Jumping to conclusions.

For a long time, that was about as much exercise as most of us got.

Not anymore.

Last year, almost 60 million Americans exercised their option to exercise.

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Take Campbell's vegetable soups. They're all a rich source of vitamin A. And one healthy serving of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup supplies more thiamin and niacin per calorie than whole wheat bread.

Of course, soup not only makes you feel good, it helps you look good. In fact, a number of recent analyses suggest that people who consume soup, take in fewer calories than those who don't.

In short, Campbell's Soup fits right into a serious fitness program.

After all, if you're trying to stay in shape, you're probably giving a lot of yourself.

Well, Campbell's Soup gives a lot of it back.

CAMPBELL'S SOUP IS GOOD FOOD

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SAN DIEGO

May I have the envelope, please? Thank you. It's a great honor for me to introduce the winners of the 1984 awards for San Diego Charger offensive and defensive Players of the Year. Let's have a round of applause for . . . hmmm. Would you believe Tobin Rote and Emile Karas?"

Well, anything is possible.

After all, wasn't 37-year-old guard Ed White named the winner of the Willie the Walrus Sea World Award last January as Lineman of the Year? When White matriculated at the University of California, the Sunshine State's best-known Berkeley was Busby.

There apparently will be many more opportunities for Charlie to break the NFL record for career receptions. He is 53 catches behind Charley Taylor's mark of 649.

And didn't the '83 Chargers name Charlie Joiner as both the Most Valuable Player and the winner of the team's Inspirational Award? Joiner had just concluded his 15th year in the NFL and his career pass-catching totals read . . . well, here's a hint. Charlie Joiner's mother chose to give birth to her offspring in the wee Louisiana community known as Many.

That word did not describe the win totals of the Charger team that Joiner inspired last season. But there apparently will be many more opportunities for Charlie to break the NFL record for career receptions. He is 53 catches behind Charley Taylor's mark of 649. Joiner has never missed a Charger game in a streak that now extends back 117 games. He has caught at least one pass in the last 75 games. And with 65 receptions for 960 yards, 1983 was one of his most productive seasons.

"I grew up loving sports, and I think you should do what you love to do as long as you're physically capable of doing it," Joiner philosophizes. "I still enjoy playing. I'm still having fun. I love to perform in front of a big crowd."

According to some NFL experts who were calculating odds a year ago, the Chargers figured to finish that campaign performing before an especially big crowd in the Super Bowl. And that's another factor in Joiner's career decision. San Diego is coming off a disappointing and unexpected 6-10 season.

"It would really hurt to go out on a losing year," Joiner admits. "It would carry over into whatever I do when I retire. And we're not as far from being in the championship hunt as most 6-10 teams would be. Despite our drop-off, we're not that far down. Besides, when people go through hard times, it makes them stronger."

Not that any friends or foes of Charger football have yet been able to detect any weaknesses in Joiner's game.

"Charlie is the most intelligent and perceptive receiver the game has ever seen," claims San Francisco Coach Bill Walsh, a former assistant at San Diego.

"Without question he is the finest technician in the NFL, running routes and reading coverages," says Ernie Zampese, assistant head coach of the Chargers. "He's absolutely amazing."

Quarterback Dan Fouts' one-paragraph evaluation of Joiner's talents is terse and revealing: "I know where he will be. I know what he will do. I know if I get the ball to him, he will catch it. What more can I say?"

In response to that question, Charger fans would like to know where this man, who has thrown 182 touchdown passes, will be this fall.

If he's once again Air Coryell's pilot, navigator and bombardier—the roles he assumed in 67 consecutive starts—then the Chargers must be ranked among the AFC favorites despite their record last year. If Fouts spends part of the year on the Red Cross squad as he did in '83, then the San Diego offense likely will also be in traction.

Not that Fouts cornered the market on slings and crutches.

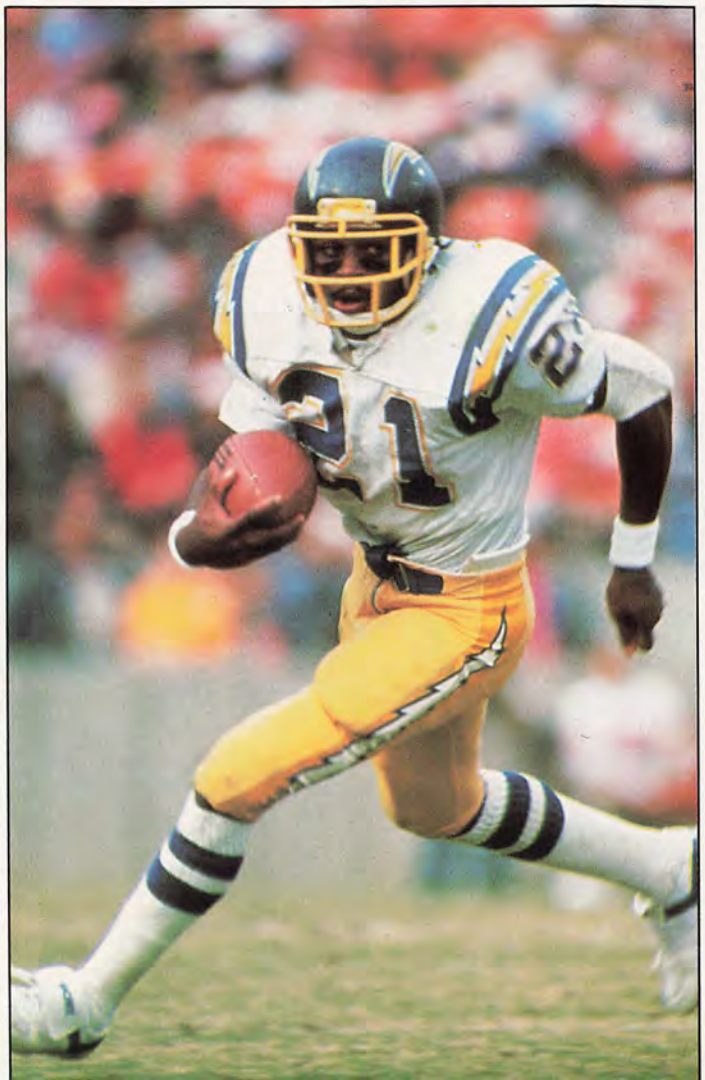
Wide receiver Wes Chandler was crippled by injuries to both feet and also suffered a bruised kidney. Guard Doug Wilkerson broke his arm, tight end Eric

(continued)

Charlie Joiner has torn away to score 50 touchdowns in his 15-year pro career.

18
21

As a rookie, linebacker Billy Ray Smith (above) had problems, but everything points to a brighter future—as Freeman McNeil of the Jets may learn. James Brooks (right) carries the ball several ways: as a back, receiver, punt and kickoff returner.



(San Diego continued)

Sievers dislocated an ankle, defensive backs Tim Fox and Bobby Gregor missed more than half the season with injuries, and the season was almost a washout for linebacker Cliff Thrift because of a hamstring injury.

The Chargers might still have limped to a winning season had not the injuries been compounded by the inexperience of and indecision by the defensive unit. Rookie cornerbacks Gill Byrd and Danny Walters plus first-year linebackers Billy Ray Smith and Mike Green were asked to assume starting assignments. Veteran linemen Gary Johnson, Keith Ferguson and Rick Ackerman frequently felt like rookies while learning the Chargers' new 3-4 defensive alignment.

Sure, San Diego has survived in the past with defensive deficiencies. But when Fouts is hurting, San Diego boosters begin to develop sympathetic seizures. The Charger quarterback hurt his arch in a preseason game, he jammed his right thumb against Seattle, he sprained his left wrist in the Cleveland game, and the deltoid muscle in his right shoulder was badly bruised against the Giants. His ribs have been padded since a 1980 injury. Both knees must be iced before and after every practice, yet it took a muscle sprain in the rotator cuff of his right shoulder to finally send him to the sidelines for five games.

When Fouts was replaced by Ed Luther, the team seemed to lose direction. The Chargers also began to misplace the football with alarming frequency. During that five-game span, San Diego was guilty of three turnovers against Denver, eight against Washington, four against Pittsburgh, one against Dallas and six against St. Louis. And they salvaged only the single upset win over the Cowboys.

The optimists isolate 1983 as a fluke year. They point out that Fouts has earned a reputation as the NFL's indestructible man, and they expect him to again assume his passing leadership.

Pessimists wonder whether the knocks and bruises that Fouts has absorbed in 11 punishing seasons are only now beginning to extract their toll.

"The injuries Dan had last year could happen to the most physically fit player," Joiner says. "He is still the best quarterback in the league and one of the greatest competitors in history. It's in his character to come back and have a great year next season."

Whether you believe the optimists or pessimists, there is no doubt that Fouts is a target. He has been since the afternoon in 1973 when he trotted out onto the field for the first time as a Charger. San Diego was being shut out 38-0 at halftime by the Steelers. Fouts completed 11 of 21 passes for 174 yards, led San Diego on a three-touchdown explosion in a 38-21 defeat and was a marked man from that hour.

"I fear Dan Fouts more than I fear Joiner or Chandler because of Dan Fouts' gall, forcing

(continued on page 134)

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KANSAS CITY

Want to know how the dice have been rolling for Bill Kenney?

Consider for a moment the drama enacted one Sunday late last season when Kenney and the Kansas City Chiefs engaged Seattle in that concrete mushroom known as the Kingdome.

- Kenney completed 21 of 38 passes for 311 yards.
- He threw four touchdown tosses.
- He ran for two more touchdowns.

If you know the history of Bill Kenney, you can also guess the outcome.

The Chiefs lost 51-48 in overtime to the Seahawks, and afterward Kenney told clustered reporters that they could lay blame for the defeat at the foot of his locker door. The game would not have gone into the extra stanza but for a rare, missed conversion kick off Nick Lowery's toe. Blame the holder for sloppy execution, reporters were told.

Kenney's name was being linked with Dan Fouts, Joe Namath, Brian Sipe and Lynn Dickey, the only other NFL quarterbacks who passed for more than 4,000 yards in a single season.

And, of course, Kenney holds for Kansas City kicks.

He has absorbed a few over the years as well.

Most 1983 preseason predictions assigned the Chiefs to limbo, until the time rookie quarterback Todd Blackledge could gain sufficient experience to send Kenney scurrying for his favorite seat on the bench.

At the end of the year, Kenney's name was being linked with Dan Fouts, Joe Namath, Brian Sipe and Lynn Dickey, the only other NFL quarterbacks who passed for more than 4,000 yards in a single season.

Kenney accomplished this feat. According to the scenario drawn up by Coach John Mackovic, other facets of Chiefs' football will begin catching up with the Kansas City Air Force and its Mad Bomber this year.

And there is good reason to anticipate that in 1984 the Chiefs will improve on their 6-10 record. In five of those losses last year, the margin was three points or less. And the Chiefs closed their season with an emphatic 48-17 triumph over playoff-bound Denver.

Before the arrival of Mackovic in Kansas City, the Chiefs aspired to a ground-control offense. They scored about as often as buttermilk spouts from one of Owner Lamar Hunt's drilling rigs.

Last year, the Chiefs averaged 24 points a game, fourth highest in the AFC. And the guy who pulled the excitement switch, bringing reluctant Kansas City fans out of their seats with a roar, was Kenney, a stockbroker in Greeley, Colo., just a few years ago.

"I think Bill played as well as any quarterback in the AFC last year," Mackovic says. "If we had reached the playoffs, he would have gotten more credit. He deserves a great deal. We do what we do best with him, and that's throw the football."

Kenney certainly threw it last year.

He launched 603 shots, just six shy of the NFL record held by Dan Fouts. His 346 completions and 4,348 passing yards were fourth best in league history, and Kenney had seven 300-yard games. Only Fouts, with eight, exceeded that mark.

Yet some Kansas City fans still seem unconvinced. Oh, they've been entertained by his Len Dawson imitation. But if his first pass this fall hits the south end of a nude in the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, well, they wouldn't be surprised.

"I think the fans in Kansas City want a winner, and as the quarterback, I'm in the spotlight," Kenney rationalizes. "If I hit 27 passes in a game, it's the 20 I didn't hit. If I get sacked one time, it's not the other 40 times I threw, it's that I should have scrambled. If I get intercepted, it's because I didn't throw it away, even though I had one of the lowest interception percentages in the league. The criticism was due to the fact we were losing."

(continued on page 31)

Bill Kenney stepped out last season and flipped 603 passes for 4,348 yards—not far off NFL records.

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(Kansas City continued)

During the '83 season, Kenney seemed too good to be true. After all, didn't Frank Kush take one look at Kenney on the Arizona State football lot and decide that he was a tight end? Emerging later from Northern Colorado University on one bounce from Saddleback (Calif.) Junior College, he missed by one the dubious distinction reserved for the last player picked in the 1978 NFL draft.

Kenney flunked tryouts with the Dolphins and Redskins and had about resigned himself to a career in that brokerage in Greeley when Kansas City signed him as a free agent in 1979. The Chiefs preferred to go with rookie Steve Fuller rather than to entrust the football to Kenney, who didn't see a minute of action that season. In brokerage terms, his long-range prospects weren't much better than a penny stock until Mackovic arrived with a complicated passing offense, which Kenney was able to interpret and execute ahead of Fuller, who was dispatched to the Los Angeles Rams.

Kenney's progress last year was even more remarkable in light of the fact the Chiefs had an ineffective running game and crippling injuries in the offensive line. Only tackle David Lutz, later named winner of the Chiefs' Mack Lee Hill Outstanding Rookie Award, was able to start all 16 games.

"Kenney took a lot of hits, he got rushed a lot," says veteran receiver Henry Marshall. "Nine times out of 10 he'll get hit when he's throwing long, but he still manages to get something on the ball. He's got a strong arm. We need a little better running game to take some of the pressure off him."

Last season was dedicated to the memory of running back Joe Delaney, who drowned on June 29, 1983, while trying to save drowning boys. The Chiefs started their season with two fullback types, Billy Jackson and Jewerl Thomas, in the backfield. Thomas was acquired from the Rams. Mackovic also negotiated to bring Lawrence Ricks to Kansas City from Dallas. Despite the fact that he didn't join the team until the fifth game of the season, Theotis Brown, who had been dropped by Seattle, finished the season just behind Jackson with 481 rushing yards and a team-high 3.7-yard average. In Brown's first game, against the Cardinals, he rushed for 52 yards and caught four passes after only four days of practice with the Chiefs.

But as Mackovic said, what the Chiefs do best is throw the ball, and they have some receivers capable of getting a step on most defensive backs. Anthony Hancock was a hurdler at Tennessee, and Carlos Carson ran the sprints for LSU.

Carson set a team record with 80 receptions and 1,351 yards in '83, a season that ended for him in the Pro Bowl. After a slow start, Marshall, himself a former high school quarter-miler, had a career-high 50 receptions, and rookie Stephone Paige finished with 30 catches, most for a Kansas City rookie since Chris Burford in 1960. Tight ends Willie Scott and Ed Beckman shared an additional 42 receptions in the pass-oriented Kansas City offense.

Free safety Deron Cherry, a Pro Bowler, intercepted six passes in the Chiefs' first eight games during '83. Strong safety Lloyd Burruss missed four games with injuries but still managed a career-high four interceptions. Cornerback Gary Green was traded to the Los Angeles Rams.

The Chiefs were less effective against the run during Mackovic's first year. Linebacker Gary Spani, the team's leading tackler, suffered a knee injury in the final preseason game. He was replaced by Dave Klug, who went down with torn knee ligaments in the next game.

This year, the Chiefs must demonstrate defensive toughness to augment the brilliance of the new-found air attack.

On the plus side, defensive end Mike Bell avoided incapacitating injury for only the second time in five years, and although Art Still was hampered by an ankle injury, he still accounted for 96 tackles.

During the off-season, Mackovic emphasized strength work for most of his players and convinced Hunt he should invest $20,000 in a state-of-the-art weight room. He'll soon be able to measure the anticipated improvement.

"We need more strength and durability in our offensive line, defensive line, linebackers and tight ends," Mackovic says. "The strength of our offensive line was below standards, and it hurt our running game. Defensively, we were not able to meet and challenge some of the better offensive lines in the NFL. In several games, our defensive front was just worn down."

Five different runners stung the Chiefs for more than 100 yards. The first time Seattle rookie Curt Warner touched the football in the '83 opener at Arrowhead Stadium, he broke out of a gang of Kansas City tacklers on his way down the sideline for a 60-yard gain.

The second time the Chiefs and Seahawks met—on the day that Kenney passed for four touchdowns and ran two others across—Warner rushed for a career-high 207 yards and three touchdowns.

This year, the Chiefs must demonstrate defensive toughness to augment the brilliance of the new-found air attack. And that's the first priority of defensive coordinator Bud Carson, credited with being the architect of the Pittsburgh Steel Curtain in the mid-'70s.

Mackovic's staff includes a couple of other coaches with equally impressive credentials. As for the 40-year-old head man, Mackovic benefits from the experience of holding 10 jobs in 19 years at such diverse locations as Barberton (Ohio) High School, the U.S. Military Academy, Wake Forest and the Dallas Cowboys, where he most recently served as quarterback coach.

"The thing that amazes you about Coach (Tom) Landry is the consistency week in and week out," Mackovic says. "So you win, so you lose. It's Monday morning, let's grade the films, start the game plan. There's a feeling that everything will be taken care of."

Taking care of business in Kansas City consists of enticing the fans back into Arrowhead Stadium and getting the Chiefs into the playoffs for the first time in 13 seasons. It's a challenge that confounded his predecessor, Marv Levy, but Mackovic is a strong believer in the positive aspects of patience.

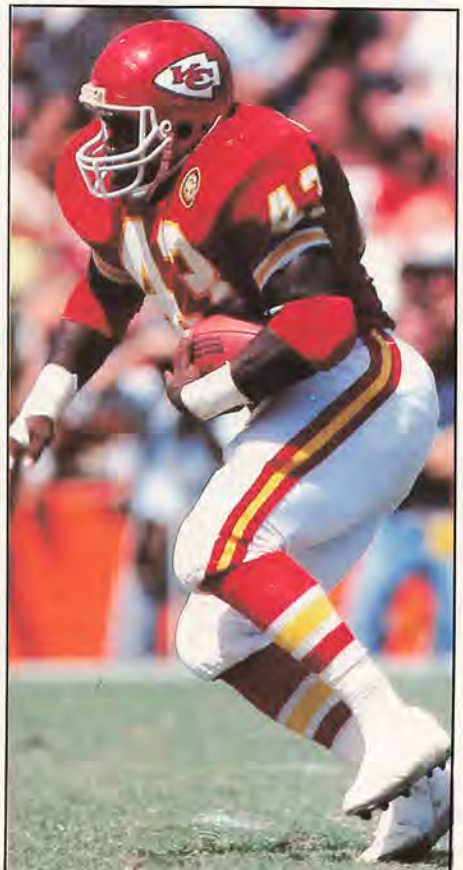
"Many, many stories have been written about people suddenly coming from the shadows when their chance came," he says. "Not the least of those was Vince Lombardi. He was 45 before Green Bay decided to give the old line coach from New York a job. (Pittsburgh's) Cliff Stoudt could have turned sour. He went, what, 56 games without playing and (for a brief period last season) was quarterback of the hottest team in the NFL. Woe be unto the man who isn't ready when his chance comes."

Bill Kenney is ready and willing.

"This is a head coach I can talk to and feel he understands," the K.C. quarterback says. "For me, that's a first."

END

Billy Jackson runs now and then—and for good yardage—on a pass-crazy team.



PITTSBURGH

When the Pittsburgh Steelers played their final game last year, only nine members of their 1980 Super Bowl team were in the starting lineup. Even the systems had changed: on offense from a bombs-away team that could score from anywhere on the field to a balanced attack with shorter routes; on defense from a 4-3 stunting unit to a 3-4, with at least a half-dozen specialization substitutes.

But running back Franco Harris was still there, turning the corners on those beautifully conceived weak-side sweeps, hitting the right holes on those nifty trap plays and giving them the old limp leg on deftly timed screen passes. If there is one thing certain in pro football, it is that Franco Harris will give you an honest game, even at 34.

"People think that as you get older you should take it easier. Not me. This is no time for me to relax. . . . I have no problem with age."

The Steelers, a team in transition, will be chasing that elusive fifth Super Bowl (they are 4-0, having won Super Bowls IX, X, XIII and XIV). Harris will be chasing a monumental record as well: Jim Brown's career rushing total of 12,312 yards in nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns from 1957-65. Harris has 11,950 yards after a 1,007-yard season last year, his 12th in the National Football League. It was Harris' eighth 1000-yard season, an NFL record.

"I have that total commitment now," says Harris. "Running, blocking or receiving—I will do whatever I am called on to do by Chuck Noll. People think that as you get older you should take it easier. Not me. This is no time for me to relax. I still want to play a complete game. I still feel excited every year. I have no problem with age. I don't even think about it. I know that my day will come, but if you can still do the job, why think about that? I still have a lot of kid in me."

At 47, Jim Brown apparently thought he had a kid's body and spirit too. "I'm as strong as Franco, and I can do the same things that Franco does," Brown said last winter, adding that he might make a comeback to keep the record beyond Harris' reach. Brown also criticized Harris' way of avoiding sideline hits.

Harris noted that Brown "did a lot for football" and let it go at that. But the media would not let the story die, although few took Brown seriously when he talked of returning to pro football.

Says Harris: "I have never really followed my progress up the ladder. There's no way I can avoid it now. I don't want to worry about it, but I know it's (Brown's record) there. I realize that it's an obstacle. Sure, I would like to break it. But what Jim Brown did was incredible because he did it in fewer years (nine) and in fewer games (four 12-game seasons, five 14-game seasons). I'm looking forward to doing it, but other people will do it, too. People like Walter Payton (11,625 yards in nine years) and Tony Dorsett (8,336 yards in seven years)."

Harris' eighth 1000-yard season last year was remarkable. The Steelers finished 22nd in total offense. They won the weakened AFC Central title with a 10-6 record despite dropping four of their last five games.

Cliff Stoudt, who replaced injured Terry Bradshaw as the starting quarterback, completed only 51.7 percent of his passes and threw 21 interceptions. Stoudt then jumped to the USFL's Birmingham Stallions. The Steelers, fearing that Bradshaw might not make it back, traded for Miami's David Woodley, an experienced Super Bowl quarterback who started five games, then was benched in favor of rookie Dan Marino.

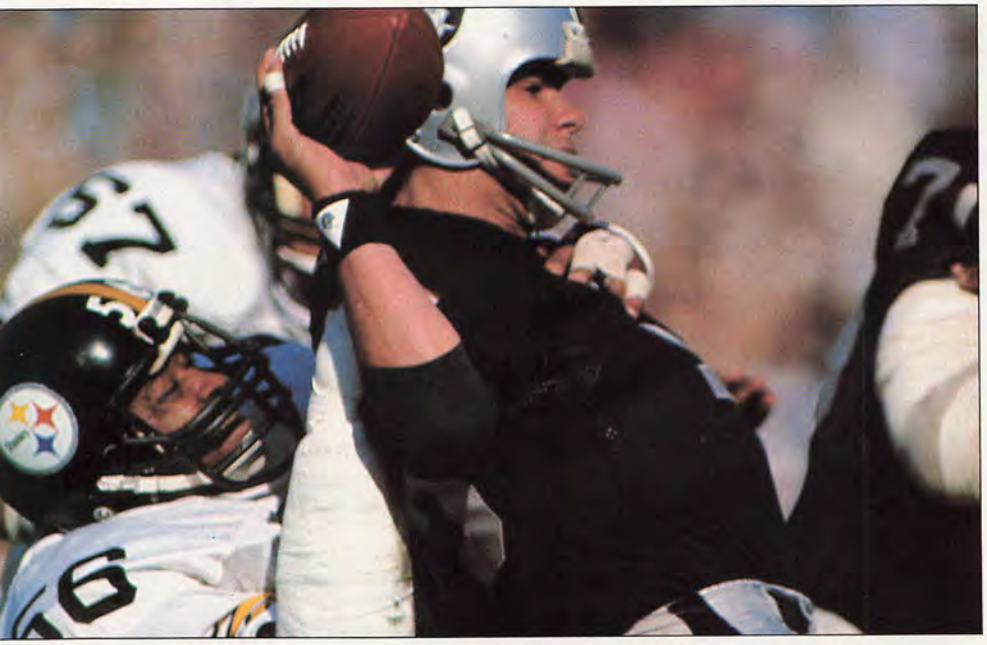
The Steelers have the nucleus of a productive offense, assuming that the blocking unit of tackles Tunch Ilkin and Larry Brown, guards Steve Courson and Craig Wolfley and center Mike Webster remains healthy. Frank Pollard lead-blocks effectively for Harris as the second running back. Pollard gained 608 yards (4.5 average) last year. The Steelers still expect running back Walter Abercrombie, their No. 1 pick in 1982, to become a superstar.

(continued)

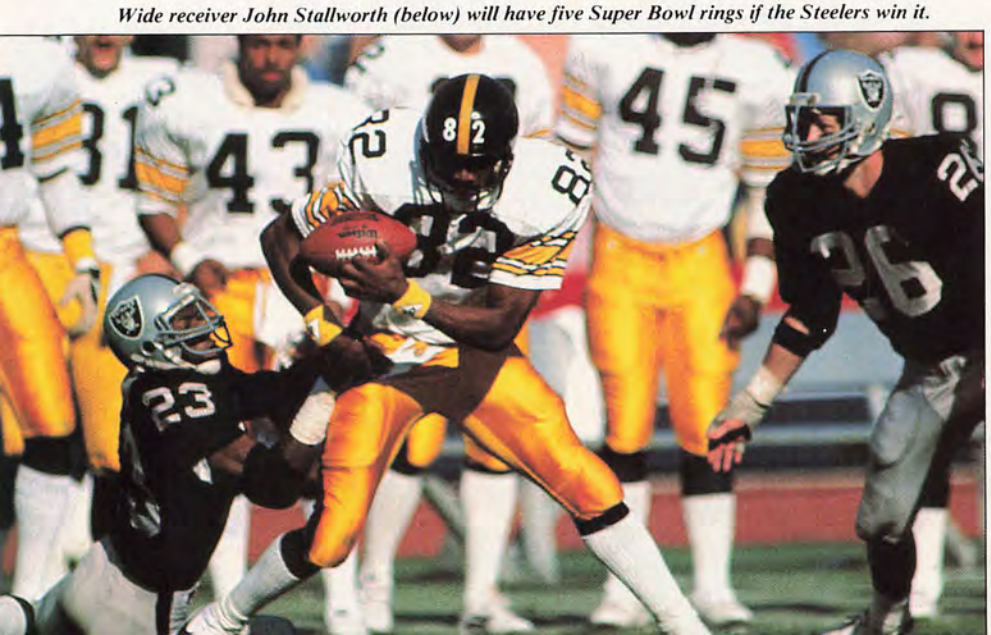
Franco Harris is heading for a goal: most career rushing yardage in the NFL. He needs 363.

32
32

Frank Pollard (above) averages 4.5 yards. Linebacker Robin Cole is a pain in the neck to quarterbacks.



Wide receiver John Stallworth (below) will have five Super Bowl rings if the Steelers win it.



(Pittsburgh continued)

Injury-plagued John Stallworth is a fine receiver in traffic. Calvin Sweeney, Paul Skansi and Wayne Capers are young and promising. The Steelers also must find a place for Greg Hawthorne, a 225-pound runner-receiver with 4.5 speed. In the past two seasons, he has flip-flopped from the backfield to split end. The Steelers didn't have a receiver among the AFC's top 20 in 1983.

Uncertainty still swirls around the quarterback position, once the true strength of the Steelers' offense. Bradshaw, who had off-season elbow surgery, played in only one game. Against the New York Jets in the 15th week, Bradshaw passed for two touchdowns before reinjuring his elbow.

"He picks his hole very well. If it's not there, he will slide and take the play somewhere else."

Bradshaw and Noll were on different wavelengths during and after the season. "I don't know whether he can throw or not," observed Noll late in the season. "Maybe he is ready for his life's work." Said Bradshaw: "I'm completely lost. I don't know what to make of all this."

If Bradshaw returns fully recovered, the Steelers would not have to choose immediately between Woodley and Mark Malone, whose four-year progress has been hampered by injuries.

Whether the quarterback is Bradshaw, Woodley or Malone, the offense will continue to showcase the 225-pound Harris and his slashing, dipping style. "Franco runs like a 190-pounder," says backfield coach Dick Hoak. "He picks his hole very well. If it's not there, he will slide and take the play somewhere else."

Harris, third-oldest of nine children born to Gina, a native of Pietro Sanca, Italy, and Cadillac Harris, a former Army sergeant, was drafted as the Steelers' first-round pick in 1972. It was not an automatic choice. Several Steeler scouts preferred Robert Newhouse, now a running back for the Dallas Cowboys, who had 4.5 speed. It was Art Rooney Jr., then chief of player personnel and now vice president, who pushed for Harris.

In Harris' 12-year career, the Steelers have been to the playoffs 10 times. They won their first division title when Harris was a rookie. He made the famous "Immaculate Reception" for a 60-yard touchdown that beat the Oakland Raiders in a first-round playoff game. From 1974-79, Harris strung together six consecutive 1000-yard seasons.

"The first time I saw him, he didn't look like a great runner," says Abercrombie. "But then I noticed how he glides by people, how he uses

(continued on page 119)

"Come to think of it, I'll have a Heineken."

CLEVELAND

Ozzie Newsome says the Cleveland Browns are about to make their move toward the Super Bowl. That brave prediction may be laughed at around the AFC Central Division, where the Browns missed the playoffs for the ninth time in 11 years.

Yet Newsome, who caught 89 passes as the game's most underrated tight end last season, feels the Browns are about to erupt under Paul McDonald, the successor at quarterback to Brian Sipe, who jumped to the United States Football League.

"We let some teams beat us last year that shouldn't have," says Newsome. "That's what comes with being a young, inconsistent team. But we have matured. We're more experienced. We won't make the same mental mistakes that we did. We're ready to move up and become one of the top five or six teams in the NFL. I think we've got a pretty good shot at the Super Bowl."

"It's hard to say which team defensed me best, because nobody was able to stop us. A lot of the credit goes to (offensive coordinator) Larrye Weaver."

Maybe Newsome can afford to glow with optimism. Last year, as the in-and-out Browns struggled through a 9-7 season in which they would score 41 points one week and six the next, he was superb. Here are some highlights:

- Caught a club record 89 passes, second only to Todd Christensen's league-leading 92.
- Broke Gary Collins' career record with the Browns (331 catches), finishing the season with a career total of 351 receptions for 4,569 yards (13-yard average).
- Caught seven or more passes seven times, including a season-high nine against Pittsburgh.
- Extended his record of at least one reception to 66 games, another club record.

"When we wanted to get the ball to me," says Newsome, a first-round pick in the 1978 draft, "we were able to do it. It's hard to say which team defensed me best, because nobody was able to stop us. A lot of the credit goes to (offensive coordinator) Larrye Weaver.

"I got considerable double coverage. They'd have a linebacker in front of me and a cornerback or safety behind, depending on what side I was on. If I split out wide, they would double me with a corner and safety. Normally, when you get doubled, there is one gray area—you know, an area where the first guy thinks the other guy has it, and the second guy feels the other is going to take it. That's the area I try to find. But you've got to have a feeling for this with your quarterback."

Sipe signed a reported three-year, $1.8 million contract to jump to the New Jersey Generals. His successor is McDonald, a left-handed pocket passer who, according to Browns Owner Art Modell, "is going to be a great quarterback some day."

Newsome admits that there will be adjustments with McDonald. "It is going to be a little different with a lefty throwing," he says. "But I think it is all a matter of concentration. Paul will be more of a pocket passer, a three- or five-step guy, who will throw within the timing of our system. Brian moved around and used to ad lib quite often. I feel a quarterback is only as good as the other 10 players around him. We've got to rally around Paul and help him.

"Leadership? Brian had that in him. The way he handled a huddle, it was weird. But Paul will give us the same kind of leadership. It's just a matter of his getting confidence in himself."

The Browns had a lopsided offense last year that ranked 10th in the NFL. Fullback Mike Pruitt blasted for 1,184 yards. But no other back gained as much as half that total. Thus the Browns averaged only 120.1 yards rushing despite a first-class line.

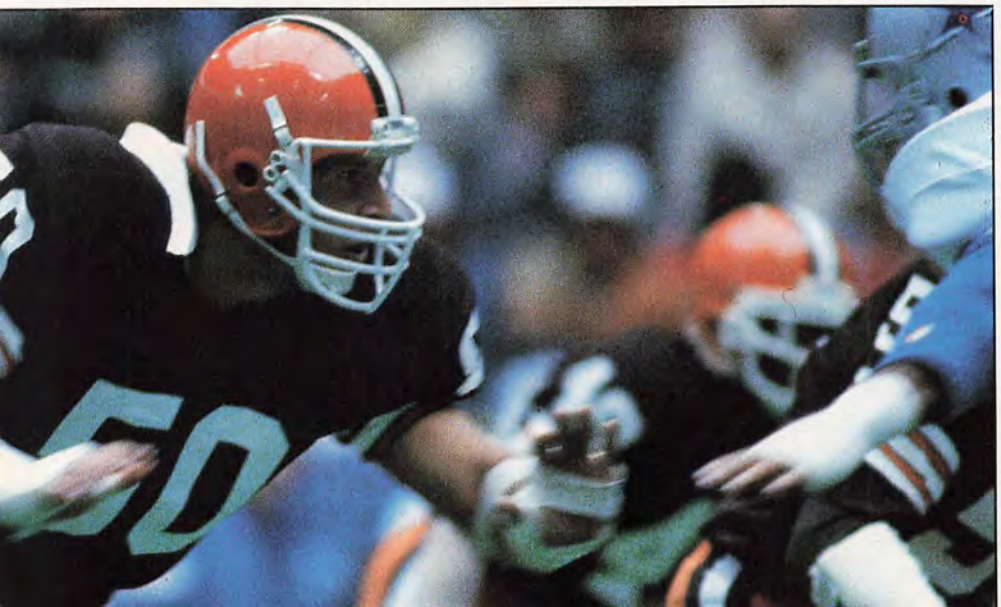
The passing attack, on the other hand, was solid with Newsome and wide-outs Dave Logan (37 catches) and Chuck Jones (36), Pruitt (30), tight end Harry Holt

(continued)

Opponents find it isn't easy to head off Mike Pruitt, who has a career average of 4.2 yards on his carries.

Ozzie Newsome (above) and Boyce Green (below) will catch lefty Paul McDonald's throws.

Linebacker Tom Cousineau (below) handed out punishment to the tune of 134 tackles last season.



(Cleveland continued)

(29), halfbacks Dwight Walker (29) and Boyce Green (25), and wide receiver Willis Adams (20) all figuring in the aerial game. Logan was traded to Denver. Duriel Harris, obtained from Miami, is a new Brown receiver.

On defense, the Browns are building a tenacious unit, led by linebackers Chip Banks and Tom Cousineau, nose tackle Bob Golic, and right corner Hanford Dixon. They obtained defensive end Carl Hairston, an eight-year veteran, from the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Browns ranked an impressive ninth among NFL defenses, playing with a unit that averaged 3.7 years of experience with 13-year strong safety Clarence Scott and only 2.8 years without him. Linebackers Cousineau, Clay Matthews and Chip Banks ranked 1-2-3 in tackles on the team with 134, 98 and 94 respectively.

"Going into the 1983 season, our goal was to make the playoffs, and we didn't do that," says Coach Sam Rutigliano. "But we came as close as NFL rules allow. We have the makings of a very good team, and it's time for us to reload but not rebuild. Our season was simple to figure out. When we didn't turn the ball over, we won.

"When we created self-inflicted wounds, we lost. In our nine victories, we fumbled three times and lost eight interceptions. Those numbers were almost tripled in the seven defeats. Some say that we were shortchanged by the tie-breaking system. But the NFL is legitimate. We had our chance to control our own destiny, and we gave it away when we lost to Denver (27-6) and Houston (34-27)."

McDonald is prepared. "I think the whole thing has developed like a novel," says Sipe's former backup, who once had a 313-yard three-touchdown game against the Steelers. "I've had four years to watch Sipe play a position that he played very well, and I've learned a great deal from that. I wanted to play more but I've had some opportunities. I'm ready and it's time for the next chapter."

In Newsome, McDonald will have one of the best tight-end targets in football. A model of consistency and determination, Newsome has caught 38, 55, 51, 69, 49 (in the strike-shortened 1982 season) and 89 passes in his pro career. These figures become more impressive when you consider that the Browns have been without a sprinter-type receiver for years.

"If we'd get a couple of guys with (track) batons in their hands," says Rutigliano, "we'd have a great offense with the kind of offensive line we've got." The Browns drafted exactly that kind of receiver when they made Arizona State's Ron Brown, a world-class sprinter, their first pick in 1983. Brown, a 10.1 burner at 100 meters, crossed up Rutigliano and Modell by opting to try for a place on the United States Olympic Team. The Rams got him for a second-round draft pick.

The way Modell sees it, the Browns need outside receiving help and a dependable pass

(continued on page 130)

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CINCINNATI

Reggie Williams, the blitzing linebacker from Dartmouth, reflected on the state of the Cincinnati Bengals like an old soldier gazing over a littered battlefield.

There have been casualties, including a head coach, three assistants and a half-dozen players, but Williams insists that the Bengals will rise again. They will do it without 1983 All-America quarterback Steve Young of Brigham Young, Cincinnati's projected first-round draft choice, who opted to sign an incredible $40 million, 43-year contract with the Los Angeles Express of the United States Football League. But Williams says that won't stop the Bengals.

"I believe that with the tremendous amount of player mobility that has occurred in the league, the remaining players will be committed to the task at hand, which is developing a championship football team," says Williams.

The Bengals finished No. 1 in the NFL in total defense. The unit, a blend of age and youth, allowed only 93.7 yards a game rushing.

In the off-season, the Bengals lost Coach Forrest Gregg and defensive coordinator Hank Bullough (to Green Bay), offensive coordinator Lindy Infante (to the USFL's Jacksonville Bulls), tight end Dan Ross (New Orleans Breakers), linebacker Jim LeClair (New Jersey Generals), guard Dave Lapham (New Jersey) and linebacker Tom Dinkel (Jacksonville), and will lose their best receiver, Cris Collinsworth, to the Tampa Bay Bandits next year.

On the other hand, the Bengals signed linebacker Glenn Cameron, a nine-year veteran who was bargaining with New Jersey and the Tampa Bay Bandits and had sold his home in Cincinnati; they hired Sam Wyche, a brilliant offensive mind, to replace Gregg; and they persuaded Dick LeBeau, defensive backfield coach, to remain as Bullough's replacement.

Williams says the loss of Young won't matter down the road. "Not at all," he says. "There would have been the difficulty in signing him and then his living up to expectations. There would have been a bunch of ifs. And in my mind, the ifs would have made it a ludicrous situation."

The Bengals, who played their first four games last year without defensive end Ross Browner and fullback Pete Johnson (both suspended), rallied to win six of their last nine games after a 1-6 start. Except for a disastrous game against Miami, which rolled up 38 points, the Bengals' defensive unit had a superb second half, allowing only 135 points.

With Williams blitzing, Cameron filling holes, left end Eddie Edwards pressuring the quarterback and young safeties Bobby Kemp and Robert Jackson improving, the Bengals finished No. 1 in the NFL in total defense. The unit, a blend of age and youth, allowed only 93.7 yards a game rushing and 176.8 yards passing. It had 41 sacks (13 by Edwards, 7½ by Williams) and 23 interceptions (eight by cornerback Ken Riley, who retired).

The Bengals forced 35 fumbles and limited punt returners to an average of only 7.6 yards (11th best in the league) and kickoff returners to 19.1 yards (13th best).

"There were games when we lived up to our billing as the best defense in the NFL," says Williams, "but in all honesty there were other times when we had a good statistical day but didn't play like the No. 1 defense should have. A good defense gives up three points, not a touchdown. Sometimes we didn't do that."

Cincinnati was a notorious in-and-out offensive team, scoring points in bunches against poor defenses (93 against Houston in two games, 34 against Green Bay, 31 against Baltimore) but struggling against clubs with strong pass coverage.

The Bengals still have a number of talented producers, including 35-year-old quarterback Ken Anderson, fullback Johnson, split end Collinsworth and a big, attacking line that features tackle Anthony Munoz, young center Dave Rimington and tackle Mike Wilson. The offense must replace Ross, who averaged 51 catches in five seasons with the Bengals, and Lapham.

(continued)

Reggie Williams of the Bengals stands out as one of the few Ivy Leaguers playing in the NFL.

73
57
76

Fullback Pete Johnson (above) and tackle Mike Wilson are veterans of the Bengal attacking force. Johnson has gained 5,421 yards and scored 64 touchdowns in his seven-year career.

(Cincinnati continued)

Regarding the NFL-USFL rivalry, Mike Brown, assistant general manager, says, "Things are turbulent. But that doesn't make it any less exciting. It's a bubbling pot. But heck, that can be fun. It's going to be competitive. I've never seen so many different ways for us to go. But I think we will be able to handle it."

As for Young, the lefty who passed for 3,902 yards and 33 touchdowns last season with a remarkable 71.3 percent accuracy figure, Brown maintains that he won't be missed. "From the Bengals' standpoint, the loss is not anything that we can't make good," he says. "There is no O.J. Simpson or Terry Bradshaw in the draft. We didn't lose a draft pick, we lost one player in the pool. As far as the league is concerned, I don't think the loss of one player, two players, a dozen players particularly diminishes the NFL. As a young quarterback coming in, Young would have been hard-pressed to start and make an impact. He would have played behind Anderson."

Anderson, who enters his 14th season, threw for only 12 touchdowns in an injury-plagued season, but still finished fourth in AFC passing efficiency rankings. Collinsworth, who missed two games with an ankle sprain, had a Pro Bowl year with 66 catches for 1,126 yards. At 33, flanker Isaac Curtis has lost a step but can still fool defenders.

The key questions surrounding the offense involve finding replacements for Ross and Lapham and pepping up a sagging running game that could not break a play for more than 30 yards last year. Three years ago, when they went to the Super Bowl, the Bengals got a 1000-yard season from Johnson in a highly successful one-back attack. Anderson carried them that year with 29 touchdown passes and 3,754 yards.

"Each year in the NFL is dramatically different," says Williams. "You try to maintain a good mix and foundation of players at every position. This team is drastically different from the one that played in the Super Bowl. The competition has gotten so much better. We have a winning attitude, though, a championship attitude. And it's going to be important for those who had a taste of the Super Bowl to share that with the younger players.

"I don't think anything will change on defense. We will still be an attacking defense. I'm the blitzer. There is some flexibility in terms of how I blitz. But there is no flexibility in terms of when I blitz. But everything I do is controlled and is only one-eleventh of the overall defensive game plan."

Williams has been a starting weak-side backer ever since he was the Bengals' surprise third-round draft pick in 1976.

"I still believe it's better to be too aggressive than not to be aggressive enough," says Williams, who once had a reputation as a linebacker who played on the wild side. "You have to realize that I came out of the Ivy

(continued on page 131)

Peter B. Kaplan, professional photographer.

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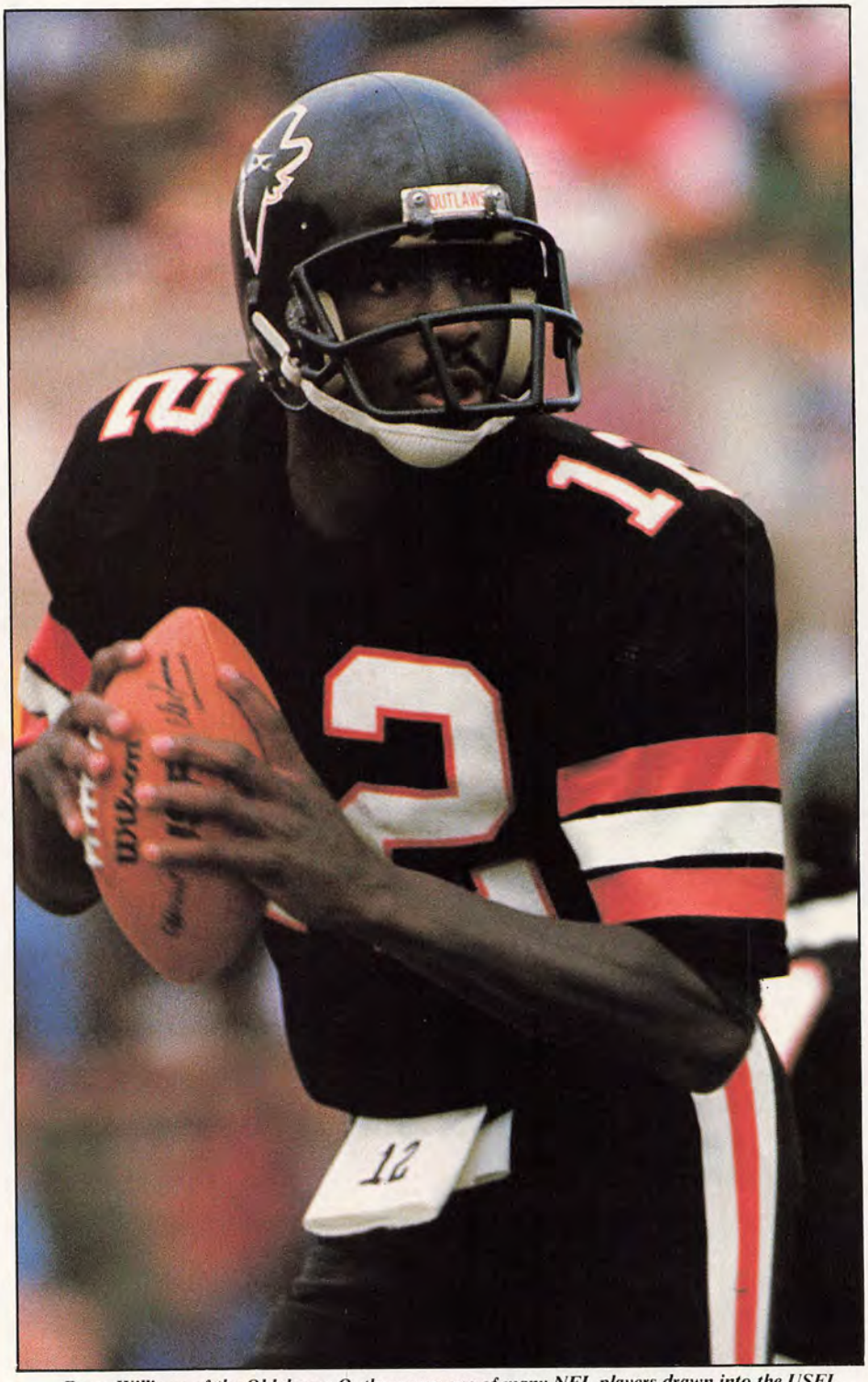

Doug Williams of the Oklahoma Outlaws was one of many NFL players drawn into the USFL.

by Leonard Shapiro

In the beginning, the National Football League sat back and yawned.

But now, in Year Two of the fledgling United States Football League, no one around the NFL is yawning or laughing. At his annual state of the NFL press conference at the Super Bowl in January, Commissioner Pete Rozelle conceded that the USFL had become his league's No. 1 concern. And when the owners met in March in Honolulu, they set up a special committee on long-range planning, with the USFL a prime focal point.

"There are many people in our league who feel they have a pretty good grasp on the USFL and believe that the best policy towards them at the moment is to let them do their thing and see if they can survive," says Al Davis, owner of the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders.

The USFL has been extremely aggressive, particularly in adding teams and signing top-flight talent from both the colleges and NFL teams.

The league expanded by six after its first year, and five of the original 12 franchises changed ownership. With new owners came a new philosophy, at least in several cities: You can't make it unless you spend it.

In the beginning, the league's founding fathers felt a go-slow approach was the best route. They concentrated on picking former name head coaches and went after only a handful of so-called superstar players. The feeling was that by keeping payroll costs down and avoiding direct confrontation with the NFL in bidding wars, they would lure one or two top-flight players for huge salaries, yet keep the average salary at about $50,000.

Nice idea, if everyone went along. In Year Two, with multimillionaire owners Donald Trump in New York and William Oldenburg in Los Angeles wheeling and dealing, big money was everywhere.

Trump, a New York real estate mogul who had never owned a sports franchise before, began a one-man raid on NFL talent. Every day, it seemed, there was another report of an established NFL star—a Joe Theismann here, a Lawrence Taylor there—talking with the New Jersey Generals' owner about jumping leagues.

By the time the season started, Trump had signed Gary Barbaro, former Kansas City All-Pro safety, and Brian Sipe, the Cleveland Browns' talented starting quarterback. He also renegotiated the contract of Herschel Walker,

(continued on page 52)

The Lee Wright Collection

Contemporary all-cotton graphic sweater, $36. Twill shirt in plaids and stripes, $27. Crisp, colorful twill slacks, $32.

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The Reach™ Collection

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JCPenney

(Seattle continued)

For years, half the youngsters in Seattle wore No. 10 jerseys, imitative of Zorn. The rest wore Largent's No. 80. Largent has been Zorn's closest friend and favorite pass receiver. But No. 80 suffered little under the quarterbacking change. Largent scored a career-high 11 touchdowns, caught 72 passes for 1,074 yards and has now registered at least one completion in 91 consecutive games, longest active streak in the NFL.

The Seahawk defensive unit dazzled nobody with its statistics but somehow seemed to get the job done, led by end Jacob Green, 6-6, 240-pound linebacker Bruce Scholtz, who's a Ted Hendricks look-alike, and Pro Bowl defensive back Kenny Easley.

"Green has tremendous athletic ability and tremendous quickness, which give him the tools of a fine pass rusher," says Seahawk defensive line coach George Dyer. "He gives up a little on size (6-3, 247), but I think he's outstanding." Easley had seven interceptions during the regular season although hampered by nagging injuries.

Seattle's remarkable turnover advantage and the performance of the special-team players compensated for many defensive lapses.

Zack Dixon, obtained from Baltimore early last year, averaged 23 yards on kickoff returns, and Paul Johns was among the punt return leaders with a 11.3-yard average. Placekicker Norm Johnson set a team record with 103 points, and Jeff West's net of 34.6 yards placed him among the most efficient punters in the league.

The Seahawks still have some holes, but not as many as there were when Knox arrived, bringing his staff virtually intact from Buffalo.

They've also got Curt Warner, and they obviously intend to use him.

After a typical game last season, the Seahawk rookie was asked why he didn't look tired and banged up after carrying the ball 25 times for 134 yards.

"Well, actually, I *feel* tired and banged up," Warner said. "It's tough out there. You get hit in the back and the knees, you get hit in the legs. You just try to bounce back as best you can.

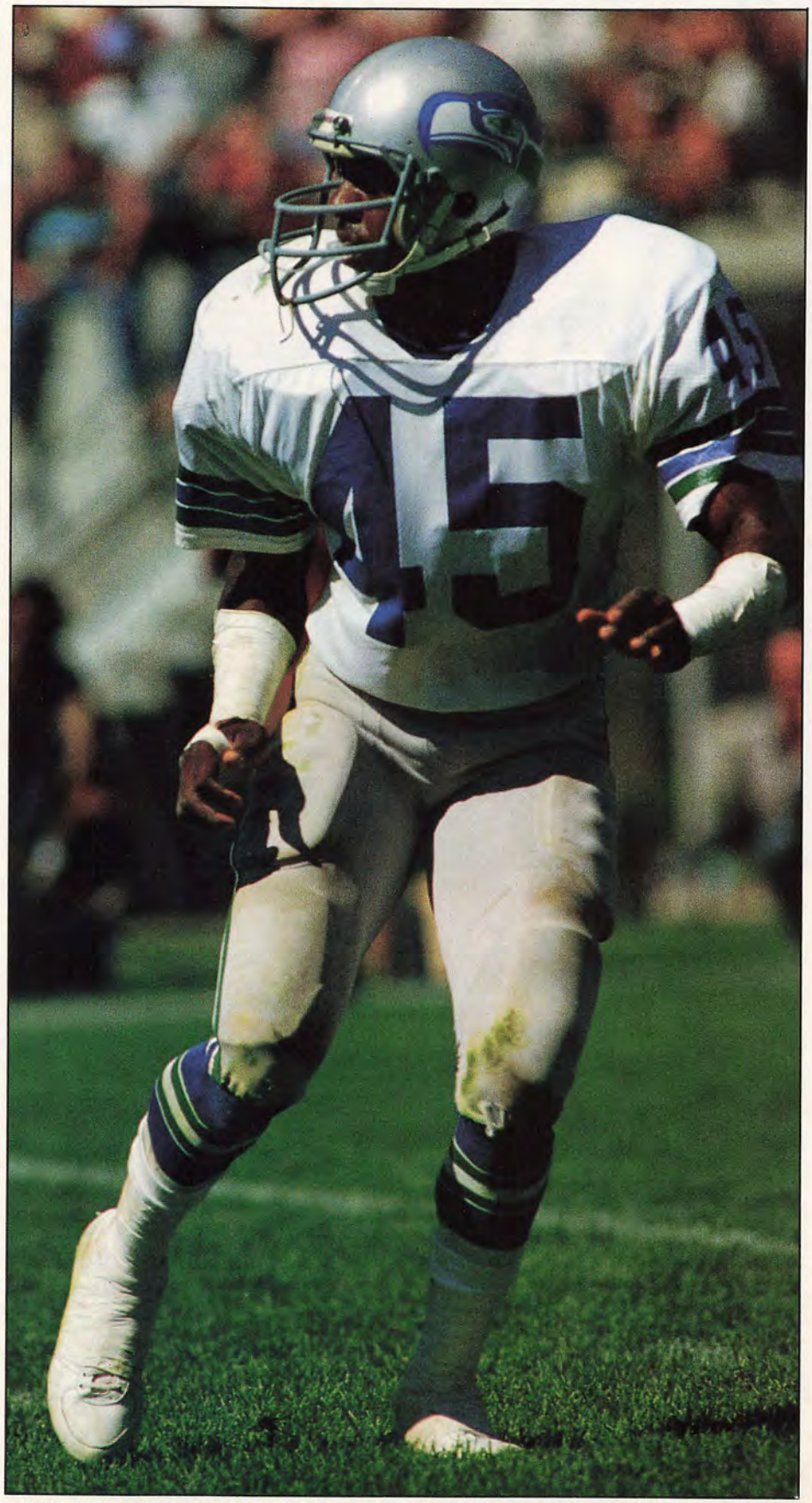
"But if they want to give me the ball 25 or 30 times a game, that's fine. If they want to give it to me five, six, seven times in a row, I just have to be in good enough shape to carry that load. I'll do whatever I have to do, and I'll be glad about it.

"Really, I love to run the football. I like to challenge the defense. You never know what is going to happen. You have to react to the situation. What better way to spend a Sunday than to go out there and run into people."

"When I looked around last year at Super Bowl time, there were only two teams left out of 28," Knox muses. "There were only two teams better than us.

"There will soon be one, better than everybody."

END



Without a ball or with it, Kenny Easley is a terror. The All-Pro safety had seven interceptions in '83.

Sammy Winder is an effective ball carrier, the more so escorted by the likes of Tom Glassic.

(Denver continued)

Elway had warned the Colts that he wouldn't play in Baltimore, but, with the first pick, they drafted him anyway, ahead of Eric Dickerson and Curt Warner, who became the conference rushing leaders as rookies in Los Angeles and Seattle.

Eventually traded to Denver, Elway got the starting assignment, but the Broncos had to call on DeBerg to save some early games. DeBerg replaced Elway for five games. Then DeBerg suffered a shoulder injury. It kept him out of action until the wild-card playoff game with Seattle. In an attempt to motivate the Broncos before that game, during a week of subfreezing temperatures in Denver, Reeves had 70,000 one-dollar bills carted into a team meeting so that the players could visualize the reward awaiting the Super Bowl champions.

"The first thing I thought was that it's John Elway's salary for one week," DeBerg deadpanned.

"There's no question that John's a lot better prepared for the starting role now," DeBerg admitted after he suffered that late-season injury. "I think what happened to him earlier in the season will now be an advantage to him."

"It's a whole different thing looking at it (Denver's intricate offense) now," says Elway. "I understand it a lot better, and the more I understand it and learn how to use it, the more I like it. I can see the big picture instead of the little parts of it. Actually, the offense was not that difficult, but I had to get a different perspective on it."

The key man in the Bronco passing game—other than Elway—is Steve Watson, who had 59 catches, 1,133 yards and five touchdowns.

Bronco scouting coordinator Carroll Hardy, a veteran of both pro football and baseball's major leagues, says: "Sure, the game's a lot more complicated than it was 10 or 15 years ago, but the kids coming out of the colleges are a lot better prepared for it. I doubt if there's ever been a college quarterback better prepared than John is. Let's give him 30 games."

On the current timetable, Elway's 31st game should occur the first Sunday in December, but the Broncos aren't planning a holding pattern until that fateful afternoon.

Denver appears capable of improving upon last year's 9-7 record if the Broncos can work a trade with the Mayo Clinic.

Injuries to linebackers like Tom Jackson and Jim Ryan and the hurts suffered by key defensive backs Steve Foley, Dennis Smith and Mike Harden eased some of the defensive pressure that has traditionally been exerted upon opponents of the Orange Crush. Louis Wright was the only defensive back who saw action in all 16 games. "Dennis Smith has the ability to be the best strong safety in football," says Reeves of the four-year veteran from USC. "He's the best man-to-man cover guy we've got."

Tight ends James Wright, Riley Odoms and Dean Barnett had all been placed on injured reserve before the season had run its course.

Reeves anticipates defensive improvement despite the loss of perennial Pro Bowl linebacker Randy Gradishar, who called it a career.

Sammy Winder has averaged 3.9 yards per carry his first two seasons in the NFL, and he should continue to improve, especially with the pressure exerted by Gerald Willhite, who entered the league the same year as Winder, but with a wider reputation. Willhite was slowed last year with hamstring injuries, and Winder takes a positive attitude toward his role on the team.

"I can see alternating with Gerald, but if we were in the same backfield, hey, I'd play fullback," says Winder. "I might not volunteer but I'd do it."

The offensive line appears solid, anchored by center Bill Bryan with active guards like Paul Howard and Keith Bishop.

Second-year receiver Clint Sampson impressed some observers late in the year when he came in to replace injured Rick Upchurch. But the key man in the Bronco passing game—other than Elway—is Steve Watson, who had 59 catches, 1,133 yards and five touchdowns. Watson seemed to have his best days when DeBerg was cranking out the passes.

"The sixth sense between the quarterback and the receiver has a lot to do with the success of the passing game," Watson acknowledged, when the subject was raised. "It even extends to a rapport off the field. John and I have talked about it, and we have a lot of work to do together."

Elway, Watson and all the Broncos have now been issued their hard hats.

It's fitting gear, when you're playing around with a loaded cannon.

END

Are Al Davis' Raiders The Team of the Eighties?

The Raiders raised Coach Tom Flores to an exalted position in Super Bowl history when they defeated Washington in XVIII.

by Bob Oates Jr.

You think back on the Los Angeles Raiders and you think of Lyle Alzado, 260 pounds of street fighter, crying in the Super Bowl locker room.

You think of Marcus Allen leaping, undulating, pirouetting—turning a battle for possession of turf into a seemingly effortless aesthetic experience.

You think of Jim Plunkett, who uses the pocket like the Texans did the Alamo, and of Lester Hayes and Mike Haynes—Spiderman and the dancer—and of Cliff Branch, the only man in his club, a 36-year-old who outraces rookie sprinters.

Now, with the most recent National Football League memory being the Raiders' thorough dismantling of the Washington Redskin juggernaut, attention naturally turns to the question that arises any time a team wins more than three games in a row.

Are the Raiders a dynasty?

And the answer, of course, is yes—if they can beat the Redskins in the next Super Bowl. Which is no cinch.

What does this dynastic candidate look like?

"We've got some different people on this ball club," says defensive end Alzado. "We've got guys who take showers with their clothes on."

The Raider wild men are no public-relations ploy. Standard-issue human beings can't play pro football for anybody, and the Raiders are the most un-standard of them all. There is nothing accidental about it. Raider principal owner Al Davis looks for the fire-breathing type. And Coach Tom Flores puts them together in an optimally combustible mix.

"We don't have to pep-talk these people," Flores says. "We look for tough football players. Real tough. And then we just let them watch the Raider style. Howie Long comes in and sees how Alzado plays. He learns what we want. The guys who make it are the guys who can play this way."

Unique among the people who run pro football teams, Al Davis has a very particular and pre-set idea of what he wants at each position on his football team. On defense, for instance, he wants very large, intimidating people in the middle; thus, 250-pound ex-lineman Matt Millen at inside linebacker. He wants hard hitters at safety; thus, Vann McElroy and Mike Davis have succeeded Jack Tatum and George Atkinson. He wants brilliant man-to-man-style athletes at the corners; thus, Hayes and Haynes have succeeded Willie Brown and Kent McCloughan. On offense, he wants huge offensive linemen that block straight ahead. He wants one wide receiver with terrific speed. He wants a long-ball arm at quarterback, so much that he unloaded All-Pro Ken Stabler and brought in Jim Plunkett, saying only in explanation that Stabler could no longer launch the bomb while Plunkett could.

He knows exactly what he wants. And he does what he has to do to get it.

Plunkett was a 49er discard, tight end Todd Christensen (92 catches to lead the NFL in 1983) was twice cut, Alzado was "washed up." Sometimes he out-scouts the competition—Heisman Trophy winner Allen was thought too small or slow by seven other teams before Davis got him. All-Pro Long was discounted due to his suspect Villanova background until Davis took him. Sometimes he'll just spread-eagle himself to get a genius—cornerman Haynes cost him two first-round draft choices.

But Davis has a vision, and the single-minded purpose to make that vision a reality. You can win with teams of other descriptions. The fascinating thing is that Davis keeps winning with a team of the same description.

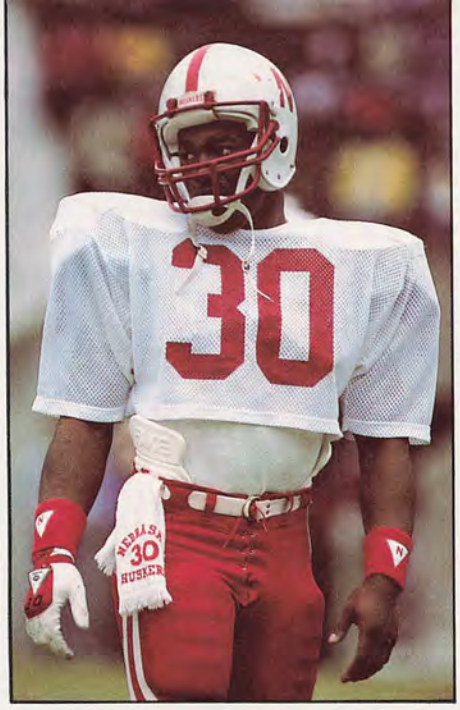
And he does keep winning. As the Raider organization lets no one forget, Davis has now presided over 19 winners in 21 seasons. The Raiders' .710 winning percentage in that time is the highest for any team in any professional sport.

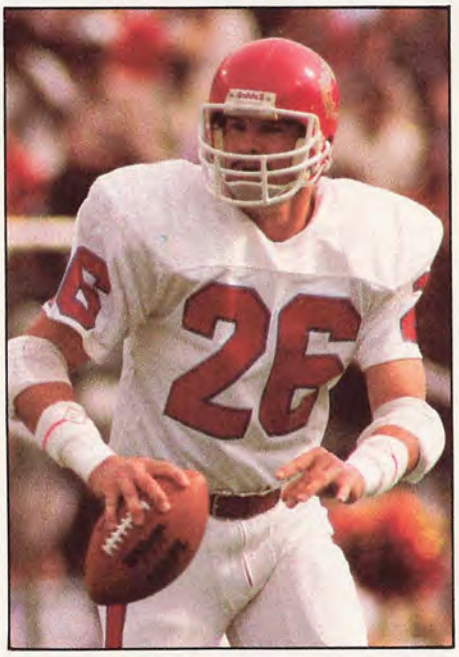
Moreover, Raider momentum appears only now to be cresting. The three Raider world championships have come in the last eight years, two in the past four.

So the Raiders have been winners for years, and bigger winners in recent years. Yet for all the awesome history of the club, and its undeniable mastery in last year's playoffs, certain questions about its continued sovereignty suggest themselves. In fact, to come across some, well, delicate facts about the team, one need look no further than its sputtering record through the bulk of last season.

Take the preseason, for example. The starting offense never sustained a single drive in 16 quarters, and the team lost four times in four tries. As the season began, this ineptitude did seem to be but a midsummer's bad dream; in September the team dispensed a month's worth of highlight-film football, keyed by a defense that did not allow a touchdown until the closing seconds in any of the first four games. But the Raiders lost three of their next five games. They benched their quarterback. They dropped the ball, kicked it around and threw it away in the manner of squads across the land headed for 8-8 and an early vacation.

(continued on page 74)





USFL teams paid huge salaries for players like these: (clockwise) Herschel Walker, Mike Rozier, Gary Barbaro and Brian Sipe.

(USFL continued)

adding an extra year to the pact that would pay Walker an estimated $6 million over the next four seasons.

On the other coast, Los Angeles Express Owner Oldenburg also jumped in with both feet. Shortly after the season started, he signed Steve Young, the Brigham Young quarterback expected to be the first choice in the NFL draft, to a contract ballyhooed at $40 million, based on a series of annuities that would keep paying Young over a million dollars when he was 65 years old.

When the USFL season opened, there were scads of former NFL stars competing for the new league. Joe Cribbs of the Buffalo Bills had jumped to Birmingham, saying, "When people asked me why, I told them it was for two reasons. First, it was an opportunity to play at home in front of my family and friends. Second, the USFL represents a great opportunity in itself. It's a challenge to be on the ground floor of something new, something different from what you're used to."

He didn't mention the third reason: money, a reported $3 million contract.

There were other familiar NFL names: quarterback Doug Williams (Tampa Bay Bucs now of the Oklahoma Outlaws), quarterback Vince Evans (Chicago Bears now of the Chicago Blitz), defensive lineman Dave Stalls (Los Angeles Raiders to Denver Gold), cornerback Jerry Holmes (New York Jets to Pittsburgh Maulers), tight end Dan Ross (Cincinnati Bengals to New Orleans Breakers) and quarterback Cliff Stoudt (Pittsburgh Steelers to Birmingham Stallions).

The USFL again diluted the National Football League draft, signing at least a dozen rookie players who had been listed as either first or second-round draft choices. The two-year-old league got one-fourth to one-third of the players who would have appeared on the NFL draft list.

The biggest name of all was Mike Rozier, the nation's leading rusher and Heisman Trophy winner from Nebraska who signed a $3 million deal with the new Pittsburgh franchise. Rozier got off to a slow start in his rookie year, but by midseason he began to show the form that had thrilled Cornhusker fans the last two seasons.

Also signed by the USFL was defensive tackle Reggie White (by Memphis, making him a millionaire). White might have been the No. 3 pick in the NFL draft—behind Young and Rozier.

The USFL landed another talented running back when 19-year-old Marcus Dupree decided to forego two years of collegiate eligibility to sign with New Orleans. On his first carry of the year, the former Oklahoma star scored a touchdown. He was a primary reason the Breakers had hopes for the playoffs.

The USFL did nicely in establishing its own identity with players drafted in the first season.

(continued)

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(USFL continued)

Overall, more than 100 rookies finished the first season, and many emerged as stars in their own right.

Philadelphia's Kelvin Bryant, Arizona's Tim Spencer and Michigan's Ken Lacy gained over 1000 yards in their first seasons of running the football. Trumaine Johnson of Arizona led the league with 81 receptions, and receivers Anthony Carter and Derek Holloway were big reasons Michigan won the league's first championship.

There were also a number of promising young quarterbacks, notably Michigan's Bobby Hebert.

All contributed to a highly professional look for the new league. It helped that the league decided to add an exhibition-game schedule in preseason as opposed to formal scrimmages in its first year. By the time the 1984 season began, most teams had a far more polished look than in the first year.

"It's not NFL-quality football, but it's certainly better than the best college football," says William Cash, president of the expansion Jacksonville franchise.

"We learned a lot from the first year," says Washington general manager Dick Myers. "Starting anything from scratch is very difficult, and you make mistakes. But everything about the league was upgraded. Most of the original teams had substantial roster turnovers. Everyone added better players."

The class teams of the league were those that had no inhibitions about spending money. The strongest were New Jersey and Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division; New Orleans, Birmingham and Tampa Bay in the Southern; Michigan, Houston and Oklahoma in the Central; and Denver and Arizona in the Pacific.

At midseason, Washington owner Berl Bernhard, whose team was then winless, said he was looking for new investors who would provide an extra $5 million, which he pledged to spend on new talent.

Bernhard admits that the rules of the game have changed considerably from when he first decided to get involved. "At some point," he says, "we may have to ask if we can compete in a league that has a far higher salary level than anyone anticipated. We are spending $1 million a year more on salaries than we did last year. Now the burden is on us."

That is exactly the way Trump and several of his high-rolling colleagues want it to be. In fact, he has hopes of battling the NFL in the fall in the not-too-distant future.

"We're not looking for a merger," says Trump. "We're just looking to do our thing—keep playing and directly challenge the other league. The problem with the spring schedule is that you have only so many television viewers. People are out playing tennis and golf."

Of course, most believe that television is the key factor for the USFL. Even before the end of a two-year $18 million contract with ABC, the network announced that it would pick up the option on the 1985 season for a figure in excess of $15 million.

Jimmy Byrne, the USFL's director of public relations, said at the time—in late April—that ABC would make a decision on the 1986 season after next year's championship game. The network reportedly would pay more than $18 million if it decides to televise the 1986 games.

"We feel positive about the status of the USFL," said Jim Spence, senior vice president for ABC Sports. "At the midway point of its second season, we feel that it has made significant strides."

The USFL also has a $12 million deal with the ESPN cable network and that, too, is expected to be renewed.

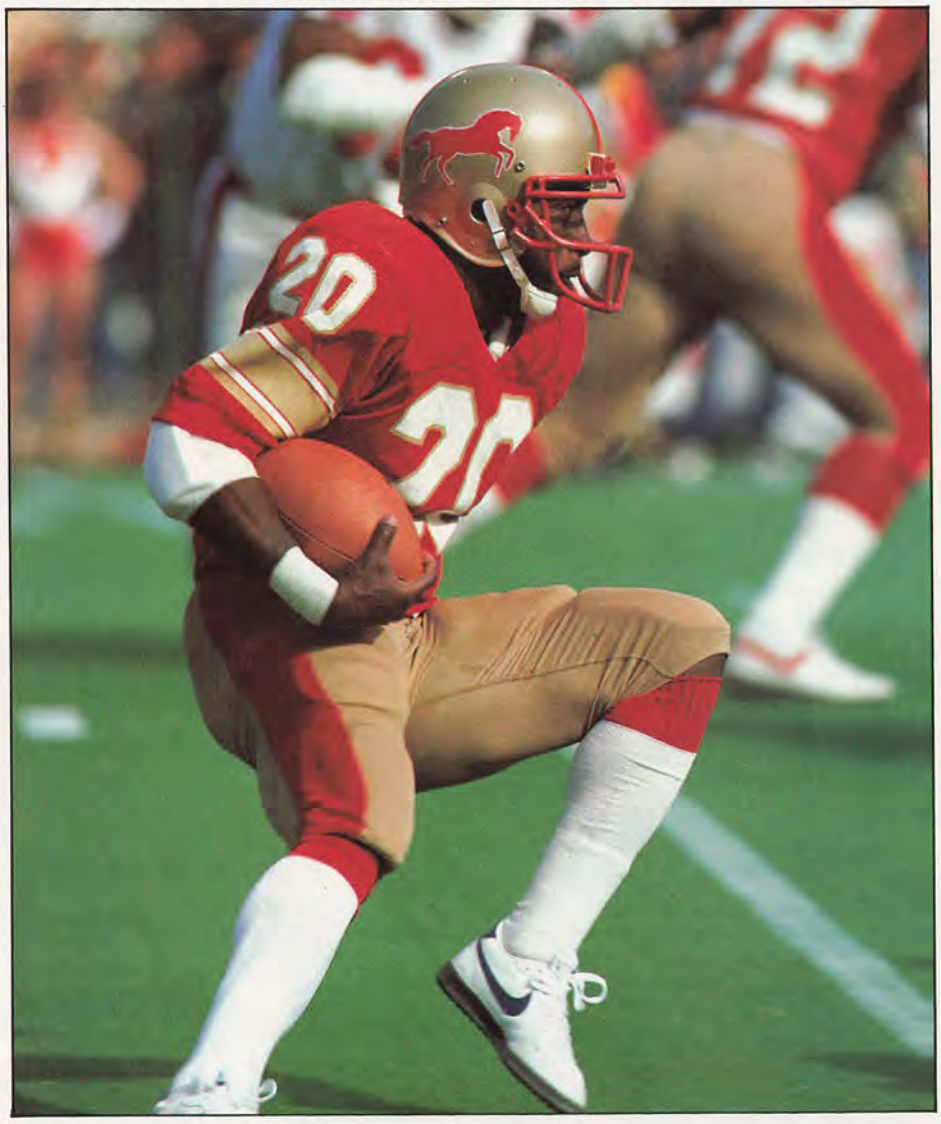
The $800,000 a year that teams currently receive from television is a pittance compared to the $14 million a year NFL teams get from three networks. USFL Commissioner Chet Simmons says he hopes to get more in rights fees from network and pay television, "but these things take time."

In its first year, average USFL attendance was about 25,000 per game, and this past season attendance was running about three to five percent higher around the league. Still, season ticket sales in a number of cities were down, and most teams were expected to lose money for the year.

"We're not the NFL yet," says Vince Lombardi Jr., general manager of the Michigan team and the son of the late Green Bay coach, "but after being around less than two years, we're doing better than anyone could have expected. What's important now is for us to establish credibility in the eyes of football fans."

END

After a good year at Buffalo, Joe Cribbs went "home" to play for the Birmingham Stallions.



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MOON

Mike Munchak remembers watching the 11 o'clock news on the night of Feb. 3 and learning that the Houston Oilers had won a historic bidding war with the Seattle Seahawks to sign quarterback Warren Moon, the Canadian Football League star.

"I was really happy when I heard about it," says Munchak, a guard with two pro seasons behind him. "I know how hard they tried to get him. And I knew what he had done in Canada. It was a great thing for us."

Munchak, from Penn State, was the Oilers' first-round draft pick in 1982, another step by an organization trying to rebuild a once-formidable offensive line. Despite a broken ankle bone as a rookie that limited his season to five games, he has emerged as the Oilers' best blocking lineman. Scouts weren't wrong when they raved about his strength (450-pound bench press), and about his ability to pull and wipe out defenders on the move.

Moon, who rushed 330 times for 1,700 yards and a nifty 5.2-yard average in six years with Edmonton, can definitely scramble from the pocket.

And now Munchak, key blocker on a unit that last year included two rookies, right guard Bruce Matthews and right tackle Harvey Salem, will be protecting the most promising new quarterback the Oilers have had since Dan Pastorini was a rookie in 1971.

The young Oiler line gave up 49 sacks last year, a misleading figure because the offense almost always was playing catch-up and neither of the two quarterbacks, rangy Gifford Nielsen nor young Oliver Luck, was a skilled scrambler. Moon, who rushed 330 times for 1,700 yards and a nifty 5.2-yard average in six years with Edmonton, can definitely scramble from the pocket.

"He can run with the ball and scramble," says Munchak, "and that's going to be an asset for our offensive line. Getting out of situations like he does, he can make the big plays. He's got a strong arm, too."

The arrival of Moon followed by exactly one month the hiring of his former Edmonton coach, Hugh Campbell, who was plucked from the United States Football League's Los Angeles Express. Campbell's teams won five consecutive Grey Cups (1978-82), each time with Moon at quarterback. He shattered Canadian League passing records last season (5,648 yards and 664 attempts), but, ironically, the Eskimos didn't win the championship.

Campbell, who caught 60 touchdown passes himself for Saskatchewan, prefers to score in a hurry, meaning that Moon and the Oiler receivers—Tim Smith, Steve Bryant, tight end Chris Dressel and Butch Johnson (acquired from Dallas)—will carry the offensive load. Running back Earl Campbell, an unhappy figure during consecutive 7-9, 1-8 and 2-14 seasons under Ed Biles and Chuck Studley (final 10 games of last year), will be a key player only if the Oilers are ahead or in close games.

Whatever the offensive strategy, Munchak and his blocking mates will be doing a lot of pass-protecting for Moon. "This line is coming on strong," says Munchak. "We're young. I was in my second year last season. Harvey Salem and Bruce Matthews were rookies. Doug France, our left tackle, came out of retirement. He and our center, David Carter, really helped us. The line started working together. And Earl Campbell had a great year running."

Matthews and Salem are huge, muscle-guy types, who were drafted first and second last year. France is an ex-Los Angeles Ram. He was lured out of retirement and cost only a 10th-round draft pick. Carter, a sixth-rounder in 1977, is a converted guard, who has scuffled and played the blocking angles to become a solid center.

Munchak says the Oilers weren't nearly as bad as their record. "I think all of us made progress," he says. "We always played hard. In just about every game, we were in it until the third or fourth quarter. And then we'd lose. It was hard to believe. You had to keep going and try, and we did that. We played some of our best games at the end of the season."

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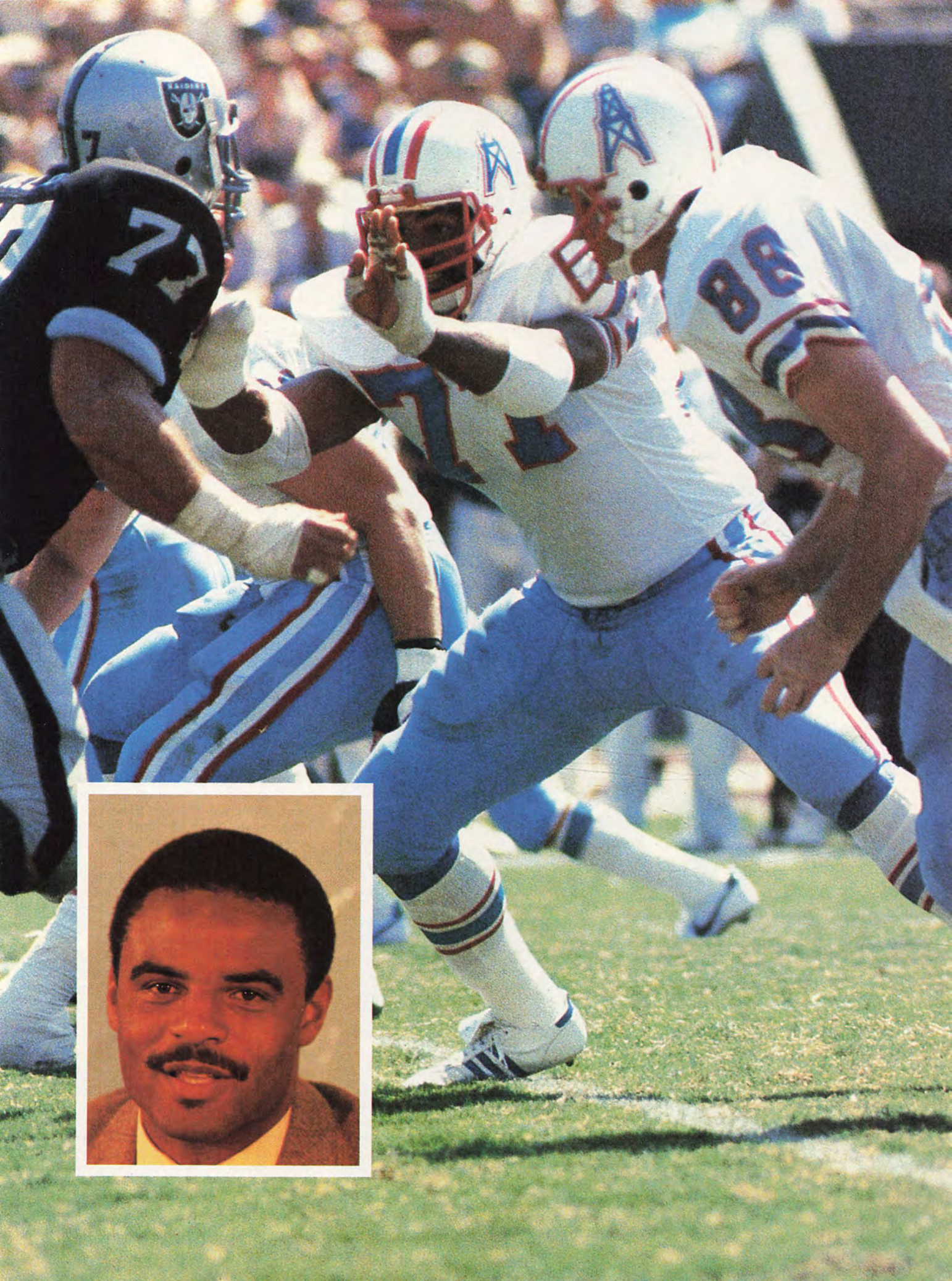
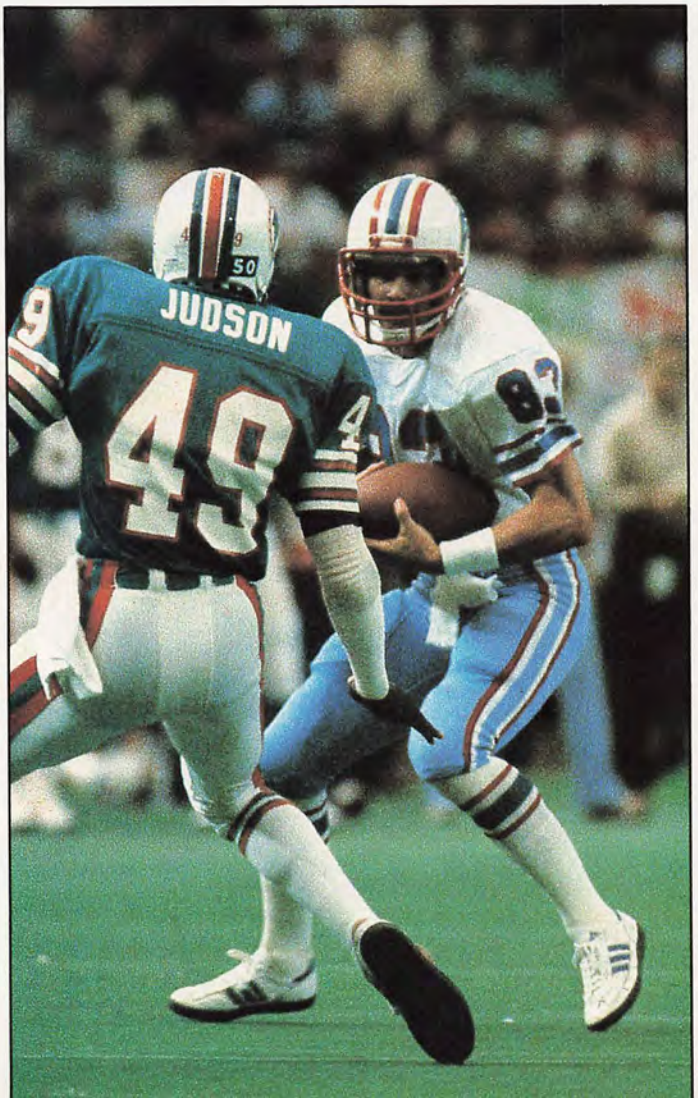
Doug France (blocking Lyle Alzado) will be protecting Houston's new $6 million man, Warren Moon (inset), this season.





Mike Munchak (above) is the Oilers' best blocking lineman. Tim Smith (right) caught 83 passes, fourth best in the NFL last season.

(Houston continued)

The Oilers lost three overtime games. They switched head coaches during the season and suffered one of their worst defeats in club history, 55-14, to the Cincinnati Bengals. But the most agonizing aspect of the year was the uncertain future of Campbell, greatest back in Oiler history, who complained about his role, his salary and his coaches, not necessarily in that order. At one point, Campbell said he wanted to play for the Oilers *and* the San Antonio Gunslingers in the same year.

"We would really love to have him stay here," says Munchak. "But he should want to be here. We don't want him if he's not going to be happy. I hope it works out that he stays in Houston."

Campbell had his fifth 1000-yard season last year (1,301 yards, 4.0-yard average, 12 touchdowns), meaning Munchak's unit was creating daylight between the tackle holes. But Houston's pass offense, in an era in which most teams are using wide-open attacks, ranked 11th in the AFC, averaging only 181.2 yards and having a 16-29 touchdowns-to-interceptions ratio. Both Nielsen and Luck had their chances, with Luck having a better percentage (57.1 to 51.4) than the gangling Nielsen.

Outside, Smith developed into a solid receiving threat, catching 83 passes for 1,176 yards, most receptions by an Oiler since Charlie Hennigan's 101-catch season in 1964. The Oilers could use more receiving speed and a darting halfback.

The Oiler defense, once one of the best, has aged and suffered personal problems. Linebackers Gregg Bingham and Robert Brazile are still around from the glory years of the late '70s, but almost everywhere else, the defenders are young hopefuls from the draft or waiver wire.

The best of the newcomers are linebacker Avon Riley, who can move and chase on pass coverage; right end Jesse Baker, who can rush a passer; and right corner Willie Tullis, a gambler-type who plays with a reckless, intimidating style.

If the Oiler defense can come together, the offense would expect to get decent field position, and Moon could win some games with his $6 million (five-year contract) passing arm. Munchak says it could happen.

"I think everything is real positive," he says. "We've got Moon, a guy we wanted very much. Now, we've got to make Earl happy. That's the next thing. If things come together, it could be a very positive year for us. We could easily have won six or seven games in '83. I think the attitude in Houston is positive."

Munchak is the heart of the line that must protect the new Oiler millionaire from the Canadian wild.

"The thing about 'Muncher' is that he will get in your face and stay there," says Bingham. "He really sustains a hit. Most guards feel like once they pop you, that's enough and they let up. But Munchak hits you and keeps his legs

(continued on page 132)

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MIAMI

His college coach, Foge Fazio, always referred to him as a "Pittsburgh kinda guy, a kid who can relax wherever he finds himself."

Well, last year, Dan Marino became a "Miami kinda guy," a kid quarterback who could relax in the NFL and get the job done.

1983 did not start auspiciously for the former University of Pittsburgh quarterback, who was drafted No. 27 in the first round by the Dolphins.

As a junior, Marino had kept the Panthers in contention for the national championship until a loss to Penn State. If he had been eligible for the draft following that season, he would have been among the top five picks, according to many knowledgeable NFL scouts.

Shula had seen Marino throw accurately 60 yards downfield, complete the tough sideline timing patterns and take sole charge in the huddle.

"We ranked him with John Elway after his junior year," says Gil Brandt, Dallas Cowboys' personnel man, "but Marino had a disappointing senior season. . . . Last fall with the Dolphins, he played like he did his first three years in college."

While most NFL scouts were starting to look elsewhere for a quarterback in the upper level of the first round of the 1983 draft, Miami Coach Don Shula had another idea. He had seen Marino perform in the Senior Bowl and the Hula Bowl. In both, the quarterback was named Most Valuable Player. Shula had seen Marino throw accurately 60 yards downfield, complete the tough sideline timing patterns and take sole charge in the huddle.

Shula had assumed that other NFL scouts had seen the same things, so on draft day he had other plans. However, by the time defending AFC champion Miami was ready to draft, four other quarterbacks had been taken, and Marino's name was still on the board.

It didn't matter to Shula that the Dolphins had just gone to the Super Bowl with another young quarterback, David Woodley, now with Pittsburgh. Nor did it matter that he already had Don Strock, an experienced backup.

Shula made Marino his No. 1 choice because, he says, "He was just too good to pass up."

Looking back on his senior 1982 season at Pitt, when he threw 23 interceptions, Marino says, "When things weren't going well, I would try to force them—get touchdowns when they really weren't there. It caused a lot of interceptions."

The rookie quarterback signed a four-year $2 million contract to play for Shula, a man considered to be one of the best quarterback coaches of this or any era.

Marino was used sparingly in preseason games as Shula force-fed him formations, defenses and game strategy. He was in no hurry to rush Marino into action, knowing full well what a bad game can do to a young man's psyche early in his career.

Marino was given plenty of time to bloom in the Florida sun, and when he finally was given the opportunity, he was terrific. That chance came in the sixth game.

Miami started slowly, and despite its 3-2 record, the offense sputtered.

The Dolphins were last in the NFL in passing at that point and fifth from last in scoring. Marino got off to a rocky start that day in the Orange Bowl against Buffalo, throwing two interceptions as his team fell behind 14-0. But the Dolphins came back to make a game of it, and even though they lost in overtime 38-35, Marino passed for 322 yards and established himself as their quarterback of the future.

"He was exactly what our offense needed," Shula said after the game. "It was time to make the move. We felt Dan was ready."

But no one was quite prepared for what happened the rest of the season. The Dolphins, with Marino in control, won their next four games. They finished the regular season with nine victories in their last 10 games although he missed the last two with a sprained knee.

Still, in nine starts, Marino completed 58.4 percent of his passes for 2,210 yards

(continued)

Dan Marino advanced so fast that he led the AFC in passing efficiency and was NFL Rookie of the Year quarterback.

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(Miami continued)

and 20 touchdowns and tossed only six interceptions. He became the first rookie ever to lead the AFC in passing and was picked on the NFL All-Rookie team. He also played in the Pro Bowl.

Teammates sing his praises. "With Marino, you don't have to worry if the ball is going to be there," says wide receiver Nat Moore. "You just have to worry about running your route and catching it."

"He asks the right questions and he listens to the answers," says Strock. "We sit there every week going back over games, every pass play, every coverage they were in, how they were hiding it, where the keys are. The only problems he has had are with our formations. We send in the plays, but he has to put them in the right formation. Sometimes he forgets, but we've got enough old guys on the line. They put him straight."

Veteran guard Bob Kuechenberg says, "Dan Marino is a classic passer. I've never played with anybody who can put the ball on the money the way he can."

"He has the innate leadership qualities you expect in a quarterback," says Shula. "He was our No. 1 choice with a big contract, but you never heard anything about it from him. I think it's remarkable the way he has blended in."

People who know Shula aren't surprised by Marino's development.

"I think Don did a much better job preparing Marino than I did with Elway," says Denver Coach Dan Reeves. "Of course, Marino's situation is different. The Dolphins are fairly basic, and he gets strong protection from a veteran line. And Shula is experienced at bringing a quarterback along."

Washington General Manager Bobby Beathard says, "Shula handled him just right. He didn't throw him in to sink or swim; he put him in when he thought he was ready."

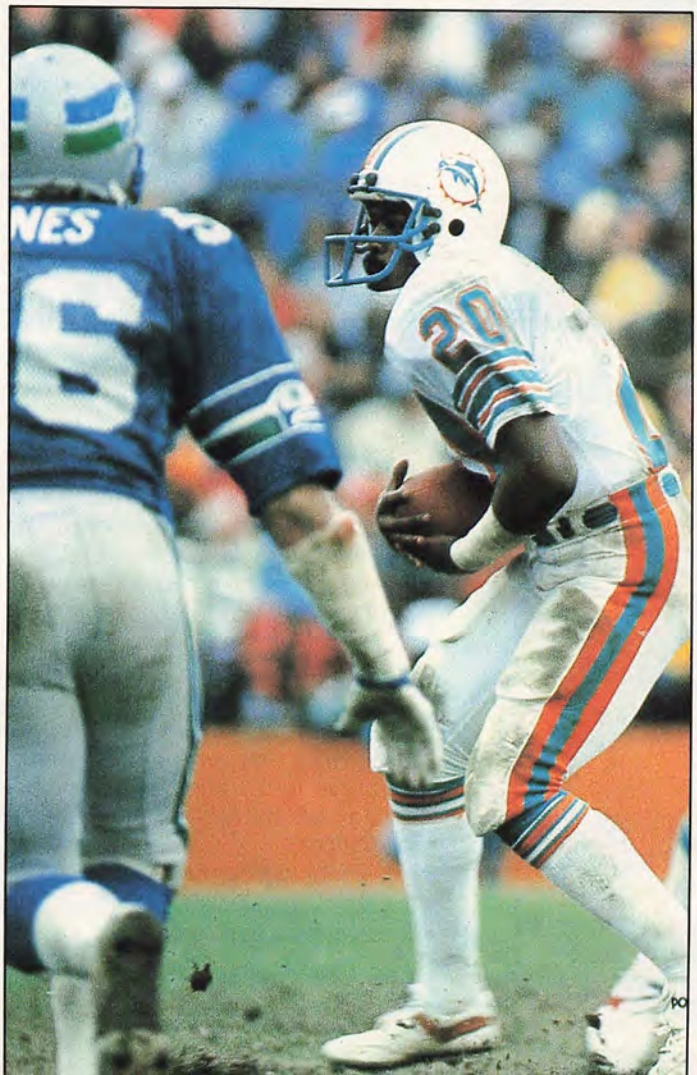
Marino also gives Shula full credit. As the season wore on, Marino said he was "reading the coverages better because it's a full-time job now, an all-day thing instead of just a few hours in the afternoon. Miami is well-known for not making mistakes, like turnovers. He has taught me what *not* to do, as well as what *to* do.

"In college, you could pretty much tell what the defense would be before the ball was snapped. In the NFL, it's tough to tell. There's no way it will ever be easy, but Coach Shula makes it easier. I'm still learning and I have a long way to go."

Shula also made another significant change the day Marino got his first start against Buffalo. He replaced veteran wide receiver Duriel Harris, later traded to Cleveland, with second-year man Mark Duper, a No. 2 draft choice who had been a sprinter at Northwestern (La.) State.

Duper gave the Dolphins a legitimate deep threat, a whiz-kid who had no trouble running under Marino's deep bombs. Marino to Duper:

(continued on page 133)



Dolphin running backs Tony Nathan (above) and David Overstreet (left) have breakaway speed and elusiveness.

NEW ENGLAND

When Dick Steinberg, New England Patriots' director of player development, stood up and announced that the team's second-round selection in the 1981 draft would be running back Tony Collins of East Carolina, groans were heard from a knot of Boston media men in the audience.

One, in fact, held up a draft ratings guide. He pointed out that it listed Collins as only the 16th-best running back eligible for the draft, clearly not the sort of fellow you waste a second-round choice on.

"We spend $600,000 a year on scouting, and you're going to believe what some $12.95 scouting handbook says," Steinberg said, bristling.

Now, Steinberg can remind the writers of the wisdom of that pick. Collins, in his third season with the Patriots, more than justified the personnel man's faith in him.

"It looks to someone in front of me like I'm always trying to make a cut. It confuses some people, some people it doesn't."

Collins was chosen to play in the Pro Bowl on the basis of a season that saw him gain 1,049 yards on 219 carries, a 4.8-yard average. He set a New England record with a 212-yard performance against the New York Jets and was his team's second-leading receiver with 27 catches.

He accomplished all of that despite what he himself will tell you is one of the most unorthodox running styles in football. He is sort of bowlegged, and when he runs, opposing tacklers have a difficult time figuring out which way he'll go.

"When most people run, their legs go straight back," says Collins. "My legs kinda go out to the side. It looks to someone in front of me like I'm always trying to make a cut. It confuses some people, some people it doesn't. I know I don't run the right way. The way I run is supposed to slow you down. I guess it would if I was running a straight-ahead sprint in a foot race. But how many times does a running back get to run straight ahead in this league? Not until he's cleared the secondary, and if I do that, I've got good enough speed—I do 4.5 in the 40—to get by.

"Nobody's ever tried to change my style. I wish they had when I was younger. But I can't change it now. Too late for that."

The Patriots, and particularly Coach Ron Meyer, think Collins belongs among the elite NFL running backs. "The fact that Tony was selected to play in the Pro Bowl is a compliment to the hard-work ethic he follows," says Meyer. "Tony is a complete back who gets the extra tough yards because of second and third efforts. He reminds me of Crazy Legs Hirsch because of his unusual running style. He's a deceptive runner. He can beat you with speed or run right at you for his yardage."

During the off-season, Collins works on beating you with strength. Asked what he likes to do when not playing football, Collins says, "I lift weights and read the Bible."

He was raised in a suburb of Rochester, N.Y., the second youngest of 16 children. Tom Hoffman, the Patriots' publicist, jokes that Collins "got his great speed because his mother only cooked for 14 of the kids."

Collins had seven older brothers. All were running backs, and all tried to help their little brother as he grew up. One brother, Morris, was the best but decided he didn't want to play major college football. Morris became Tony Collins' role model.

"He's been my idol for a long time," says Collins. "I used to claim he was the greatest running back since Jim Brown. I still go to him for advice. He'll notice things about the way I'm running and give me pointers. He wore No. 33 at Hudson Valley and in semipro football in Buffalo. If he hadn't married and quit football, I feel he'd be in the NFL. That's why I wear 33, too."

Collins' family came to New York from Florida. It was assumed that he would attend the University of Florida, particularly since he had a relative who recruited for the Gators.

He had not been highly recruited in high school—"I was OK, but no superstar"—but East Carolina was interested. Collins visited the school in Greenville, N.C., and liked what he saw.

(continued)

They don't call Tony Collins "Crazy Legs," but he has a peculiar running style that gives tacklers pause.

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33

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Raymond Clayborn (26) and Roland James (38) of the Patriots ensnare the Jets' Dwayne Crutchfield.

(New England continued)

Collins began to acquire a reputation in his junior year when he gained 1,130 yards, and East Carolina led the nation in rushing offense. He scored 14 touchdowns that season.

Collins did not repeat that success in his senior season, which was one of the reasons he was not rated among the premier backs—at least not by most scouts, though Steinberg was not among the doubters.

"He is very competitive," says Steinberg. "He has all the right measurable things: size (5-11, 203), speed, elusiveness, power, good hands. Really, he's the complete package. And he has this terrific burst. He's actually a breakaway back, which is really something for a player of his size."

Collins quickly got his chance in his rookie season after a series of injuries sidelined most of the backs ahead of him on the New England depth chart.

He started 11 of the Patriots' first 12 games and rushed for 873 yards, third-best figure among rookie backs that year and a team rookie rushing record.

Still, the Patriots finished 2-14, and Coach Ron Erhardt was replaced by Meyer, formerly at SMU. The new coach had several publicized run-ins with veteran players who resented his rah-rah approach to the game. Collins was not among the detractors.

"I have always liked the kind of discipline we have now with Coach Meyer," says Collins. "That's the kind of game football is. This team needed that approach."

Collins likes New England so well that he spurned a lucrative offer by the Michigan Panthers of the USFL. Instead, he signed a long-term contract with the Patriots, a team he and many NFL observers believe will come of age in 1984. But Collins is not yet a complete believer in himself.

"I have a long way to go to be mentioned in the same breath as Walter Payton or Earl Campbell," he says. "There are many goals I want to achieve, but I think I'm on the upswing.

"I believe you have to work hard for good things to happen. I spend a lot of time in the weight room. I've never been one to loaf. I want to gain a lot of yards, and I want to play for the Patriots when they win the Super Bowl.

"It could happen this year. With the talent we've got, if we can avoid injuries and get some breaks, there's no reason we can't win it all."

Although the Patriots finished 8-8 in 1983, with a little bit of luck and a dependable placekicker, this team easily could have had a winning record. The Patriots tried three kickers a year ago. They made only nine of 22 field-goal attempts.

Collins had an unfortunate role in the opener when, on a freak play, he fumbled late in the game, and the ball was returned for the game-winning touchdown by a Baltimore linebacker. "I had bad dreams about that," says Collins. "But this team is looking ahead, not back, and all I see are good things."

Quarterback Steve Grogan was on his way to perhaps his best season ever until he suffered a broken leg and missed four games. His replacement, Tony Eason, a first-round draft pick, is a quarterback of great promise. And as long as receiver Stanley Morgan (58 catches, two touchdowns) stays healthy, the Patriots have a good passing game. Their running game is strong with Collins and fullback Mosi Tatupu, who gained 578 yards, averaging 5.5 yards.

New England backs have the good fortune to run behind one of the strongest and biggest offensive lines in football, anchored by perennial All-Pro guard John Hannah and Pro Bowler tackle Brian Holloway. The average weight of the linemen is 280 pounds.

The defense was steady, occasionally spectacular. It finished third among NFL teams in scoring defense. The Patriots were especially effective on the goal line. Five goal-line stands helped to preserve victories over the Jets, Chargers, Bills, Dolphins and Rams.

The Patriots were troubled by injuries on defense. Captain and linebacker Steve Nelson was lost for eight games due to a fractured thumb. Defensive end Ken Sims, No. 1 draft choice in 1982, missed several games after suffering a broken leg. Other injured players were end George Crump (knee), nose tackle Lester Williams (wrist fracture) and linebacker Don Blackmon (neck sprain).

If the injured regulars return to form, the Patriots should challenge Miami and the Jets for the AFC East division title.

"Because of what we've done against outstanding teams—beating San Diego when they were totally healthy, beating Pittsburgh there, winning against playoff teams like the Los Angeles Rams and Miami—I think we have the capability of beating anybody we go against," says Meyer.

Tony Collins believes "it's our turn."

END

All-Pro guard John Hannah has been referred to as football's best blocking lineman.

BUFFALO

It is an axiom in professional football that one man's misfortune is another man's opportunity. Injury is simply an unfortunate by-product of the sport.

No one knows that better than Chris Keating, the Buffalo Bills' promising young inside linebacker who earned a starting job because one of his best friends on the team, Jim Haslett, suffered a back injury in training camp and spent the entire 1983 season on the injured reserve list.

"No one likes to get the job that way," Keating says, "and I felt bad about it. Jim and I are real close, but the longer you play this game, the more you see this kind of thing happen. I've always believed I could be a starter in this league, though, and I was just happy to get a chance to play.

"People say, 'You're too small to play football.' I don't feel that way. I've always thought I belonged out there. Maybe that explains why I'm here."

"The biggest thing about being a starter is the confidence placed in you by the coaches. It's also working all week in practice and studying film, knowing that you'll get a chance to use it in the game. It's a great feeling to know that the time you put in will help the team.

"There are times when a backup feels like he's beating his head against a wall. I always tried to work hard in practice because when I got the chance, I wanted to do something with it. Last year, I finally got that chance."

Keating would like to think he would have been given the chance to play one of the inside linebacking positions even before Haslett was hurt. The Bills went through a head coaching change when Chuck Knox left for Seattle and the team's quarterback coach, Kay Stephenson, took over.

"I felt that with a new coaching staff, if ever there was a time for me to become a starter, that was it," Keating says. "I thought at least I'd get a long look in camp. That's all I wanted."

The Bills were pleased that Keating was still around. He started every game, and while the injury-riddled team had problems on defense, Keating was not one of them.

"There are many pluses with Chris Keating," Stephenson says. "That ability to be where he's supposed to be means he knows what's going on, that he's spent time during the week preparing well. He's a great competitor who's not going to give anyone the edge to beat him."

"It's very rare that he's out of position," says Bob Zeman, the Bills' defensive coordinator and linebacker coach. "I feel secure that things aren't normally going to go wrong on his side."

Keating is hardly the NFL prototype of an inside linebacker. "I don't bench-press 500 pounds or run the 40 in record time," he admits. And he plays at about 230 pounds, hardly in the range of most dominating linebacker behemoths.

But Keating has parlayed hard work, physical ability and instinct to become what many like to call an over-achiever. He's an athlete who has to work for everything he gets.

"I've been accused of being an over-achiever, and sometimes it bothers me," Keating says. "But maybe I am. People say, 'You're too small to play football.' I don't feel that way. I've always thought I belonged out there. Maybe that explains why I'm here.

"Everybody who's made it this far has physical capabilities. I weigh as much as most linebackers in the league. I don't get beat up every play. I dish out some blows, too. There are always times when you get outmanned. There's not a guy in the league who hasn't been outmanned. And if you don't have the mental capacity, you're not going to stay around long."

Keating began playing football as a youngster in Cohasset, Mass., on Boston's suburban South Shore. One of seven children, and son of the local postmaster, he played three years at Cohasset High, then transferred to a bigger football school—Archbishop Williams in Braintree—to get more exposure.

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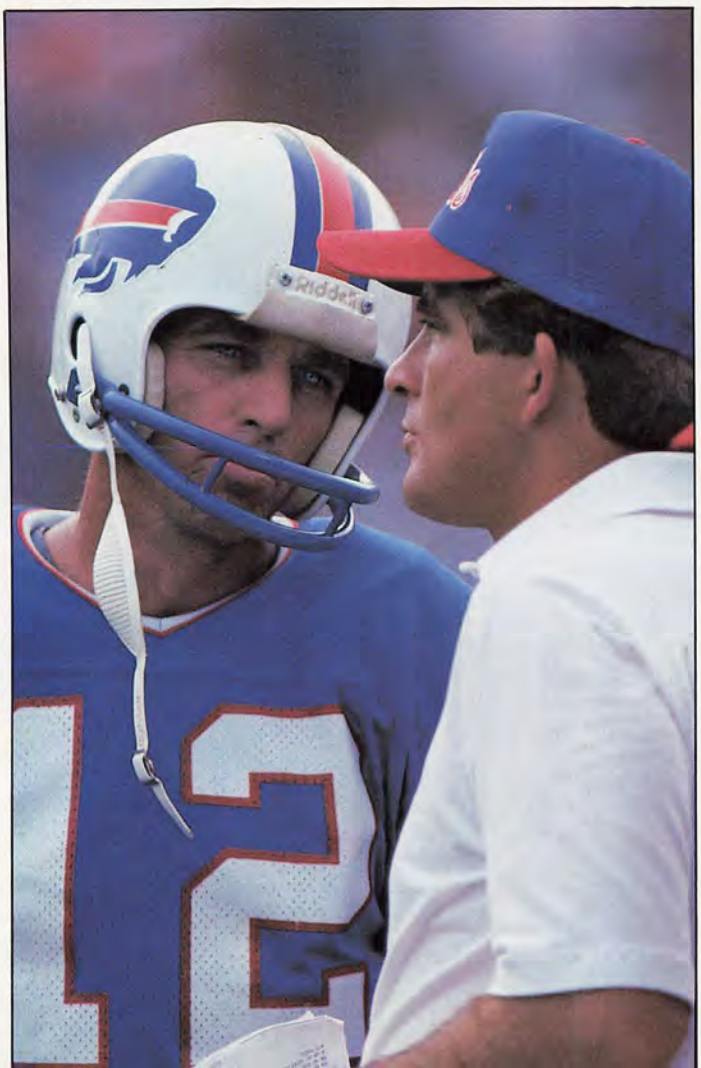
Linebacker Chris Keating of the Bills may not be All-Pro, but he rates plaudits nevertheless.

BIKE
BIKE



Running back-receiver Booker Moore (above) and Joe Ferguson (right) are veterans in second-year Coach Kay Stephenson's cast. Ferguson has 25,599 passing yards and 169 TDs by air. Record-holder Fran Tarkenton threw for 47,003 yards and 342 TDs.

(Buffalo continued)

Still, no college recruiters were interested in the slightly undersized tight end and nose tackle, and he went off to the University of Maine without a scholarship. "I just paid off the last of my college loans last year," he says. "Nobody gave me anything."

Except a chance to play football. Maine Coach Jack Bicknell, now head coach at Boston College, wasn't sure whether to use Keating as a tight end or on defense. After a starting linebacker was hurt during Keating's freshman year, the decision was made and Keating started at that position for the next three years.

On his graduation in 1979, professional recruiters were not all that interested, either. Maine's competition was not exactly major college, and he was hardly an impressive physical specimen. Still, Bicknell went to work for him, calling several friends in the NFL.

Dick MacPherson, then a coach with the Cleveland Browns, now head coach at Syracuse, recommended that Keating get in touch with the Bills, who had drafted Tom Cousineau and Haslett that year but still needed more help at linebacker. Buffalo gave him a tryout and signed him the same day as a free agent.

"I was definitely a long shot in that first camp," Keating says, "but they were fair. They gave the free agents a chance to play. They gave me a good shot, and they kept giving me more and more time in practice.

"I remember a rookie scrimmage against Cleveland when I did pretty well. So they kept working me in with the veterans. Then they told me that they wanted me to put on more weight. I had a pretty good idea then they would keep me around."

Keating spent that first season and the next two working mostly on the Bills' special teams, a profession with very little longevity. In his third year, he suffered a back injury that kept him out for 10 weeks. When he returned, he was given a chance to start, played two games and hurt his ankle, necessitating off-season surgery.

He started several games during the strike-shortened 1982 season. "When the strike was on, I wondered if it was ever going to end," he says. "I didn't have much money coming in, and I decided it was time to look for something else to do in case football wasn't there for me."

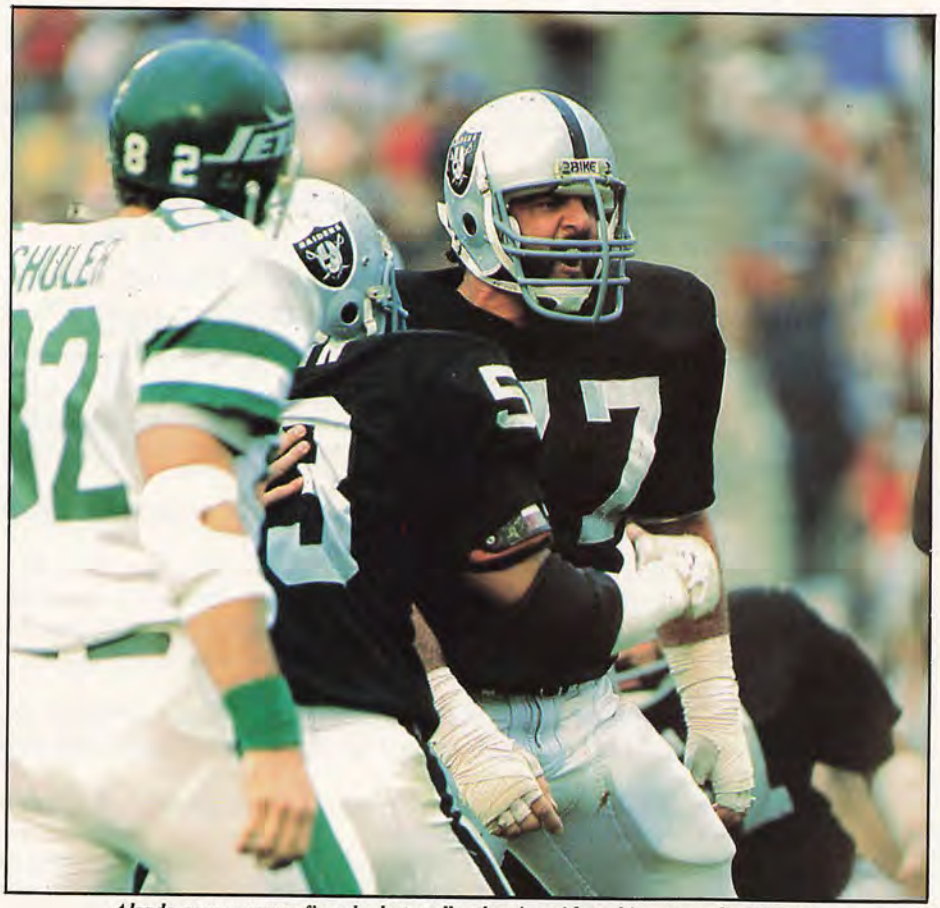
Keating began interviewing for jobs in the Buffalo area. He was hired by Shearson American Express, went through a training program in the off-season and now works for the firm as a stockbroker.

Obviously, Keating will continue to make a very good living at professional football, his primary occupation. He will also tell you that he firmly believes the Buffalo Bills' stock will not drop, despite the loss of a major asset—Joe Cribbs, the running back who jumped to the United States Football League.

Cribbs had an outstanding year with the Bills, gaining 1,131 yards rushing and leading

(continued on page 149)

Life Is But a Jest To Lyle Alzado



Alzado comes across fiercely, but really, there's a side to him many don't know.

by Rick Reilly

During a playoff game in 1982, Lyle Alzado of the Los Angeles Raiders tangled with Chris Ward of the New York Jets, adding his personal signature by ripping off Ward's helmet—with Ward nearly in it. That sparked something of a squabble between the two until referees broke it up.

After the game, Alzado was walking stone-faced out of the locker room and past the hundred or so autograph collectors when a mother and a little boy espied him. "Tommy, there's the man that ripped Chris Ward's helmet off!" said the mother.

"Wow!" the little boy said.

Alzado, already 10 feet past them, stopped and turned around, slowly, deliberately. On his face was a glare to turn a train back. He walked up to the child and his mother.

"That was me," Alzado said to the boy. "But don't you ever do anything like that, understand? I was wrong. That's not the way to be a good athlete."

For those who think of Lyle Alzado as the meanest, orneriest, low-downest, darkest-spirited, evilest-hearted, who-would-share-a-cab-with-this-guy kind of athlete in sport, this would be a good place to stop reading. When it comes to Alzado stories, America seems to like the ones where he burns the whiskers off a cat or thrashes some innocent for kicks.

Like the time he was watching a movie in Westwood, and these four guys were making too much noise. Alzado took them all outside. He hit them all so hard that, as Joe Frazier once said, their mothers felt it. But there's an addendum to that story, too, that brings out a facet of Alzado's character. Turns out the reason he gave those four a thumping is that they were hassling an old couple and wouldn't let up. Alzado hates it when one doesn't show proper respect. It moves him to action.

And if the story doesn't involve Alzado physically mauling folks, it's a tale of verbal abuse. When he says something outrageous, he folds his skillet-sized forearms over his thunderous chest and sets a whatcha-gonna-do-about-it on his lower lip. Like the time he said he could whip Muhammad Ali anywhere but inside the boxing ring. "I could kick his rear in the street," Alzado said. "There are no laws in the street. I honestly don't think there's a human being alive that can kick my rear. To do that, they've got to stop me from breathing."

And then there was the classic Alzado line: "If me and King Kong went into an alley, only one of us would come out. And it wouldn't be the monkey."

Or the time Johnny Carson brought up the name "Mr. T" in front of Alzado and a national audience. "What's the difference between me and Mr. T (growl, spit)?" Alzado said. "I'm not bald and I can speak."

Sorry to disappoint, but Alzado is pulling our collective leg. "I'll say anything," he says, and that may be the only thing he'll say that is 100 percent gospel truth.

Not that Alzado lies. No, no. Alzado just takes the truth out for a little stretch once in a while for the sake of a chortle or two. Life is too short not to.

Alzado means well, but sometimes his loquaciousness gets him in jams. Like the time he was at a March of Dimes auction to raise money. Celebrities were auctioning evenings with themselves. To increase his, uh, marketability, Alzado got up and announced he was a gourmet cook, a regular *cordon bleu*. If the truth were known, the only degree Alzado ever got in the kitchen was third-degree by burning the salad. Still, a generous man wrote a check for 8,500 clams for a gourmet dinner cooked at Chez Alzado, prepared by the master himself. Alzado also threw in a limousine ride to and from his home and two season tickets to the Raiders, which was interesting since he had neither a limo nor season tickets at his disposal.

Alzado's girlfriend, Cindy, was intrigued by this fine mess.

"Well, what are you gonna fix?" she asked.

"You'll think of something," Alzado said.

The man hasn't arranged for his meal yet, but Alzado is thinking about preparing his special culinary masterpiece—macaroni and cheese.

Alzado is one big, happy schtick. "Some people believe everything Lyle says," says

(continued on page 100)

INDIANAPOLIS

After 37 years in Baltimore, the Colts packed up and moved to Indianapolis this year.

The capital city of Indiana welcomed them enthusiastically. In three days, all of the available season tickets were sold—orders totaling $8.1 million. That was tangible evidence.

If fans in Indianapolis showed their elation about the transfer of the franchise, they were glum in Baltimore—indeed, infuriated. Mayor William Schaefer went to court, fighting to retain the Colts and touching off a legal battle.

David Frick, former Indianapolis deputy mayor who negotiated the move to the 60,500-seat Hoosier Dome, said, "Sorry, Baltimore, but we'll love your Colts more than you did." Actually, Baltimore always was more of a football than a baseball town. It had a fan organization, known as the Council of Colts Corrals, that was unmatched in professional sports.

"It's like a rebirth for us," says Coach Frank Kush, who starts his third year with the Colts. "And for Mark Herrmann, it's like coming home."

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle said there would be no attempt to block the move by Colts' President Robert Irsay in view of an antitrust judgment against the league and the club owners for their unsuccessful attempt to keep the Raiders from going from Oakland to Los Angeles.

However, Rozelle called for "Supreme Court clarification regarding antitrust matters in sports."

Indianapolis is getting a team that improved from 0-8-1 in the strike-shortened season of 1982 to 7-9 last year when the Colts tied for fourth place in the AFC East.

"It's like a rebirth for us," says Coach Frank Kush, who starts his third year with the Colts. "And for Mark Herrmann, it's like coming home. If he's ever going to do it, this is the year for him."

Kush has indicated that he expects to use the former Purdue All-American (1980) more frequently. Herrmann passed for 9,188 yards and 62 touchdowns as a Boilermaker.

Kush and Herrmann and the rest of the Colts will try to bring about a return to the golden days the team once knew in Baltimore.

In 1958, the Colts, coached by Weeb Ewbank, won the world championship when they beat the New York Giants 23-17 at Yankee Stadium in a sudden-death game. The Colts again defeated the Giants for the world championship in 1959.

They appeared in their first Super Bowl (III) in 1968 and were upset by the Joe Namath-led New York Jets. But two years later, they downed the Dallas Cowboys 16-13 in Super Bowl V. Starting in 1978, however, the Colts faded fast. In the last six years, they won only 26, lost 62 and tied one.

But the Indianapolis franchise appears to be up and coming with Kush's rebuilding program showing results.

Last year the Colts parlayed dangerous running back Curtis Dickey, steady and sometimes spectacular quarterback Mike Pagel and a big-play defense into their best record since 1977. The 1980 team also went 7-9.

Dickey, who signed a new contract this year, finally became a game-breaker, gaining 1,122 yards behind an offensive line that kept improving. That was particularly true of guard Chris Hinton, whom the Colts got from Denver in the trade involving their No. 1 1983 draft pick, John Elway, who refused to play for Baltimore. Hinton was a Pro Bowl pick and All-Rookie team choice.

Last season, the Colts played grind-it-out football, and the pass receiving corps would have to be vastly upgraded for Kush to change that philosophy. The Colts threw only 377 passes. They were last in the NFL not only in attempts but also in total yards passing (2,323) and average per game (145.2).

There were 47 pass receivers in the AFC who had more catches than the Colts' leader, Bernard Henry, whose total was 30.

(continued on page 156)

Fans of the Colts in their new home in Indianapolis look for excitement, and here it is in the person of Curtis Dickey.

33
4

(Raiders continued)

As philosopher Alzado observed after one of these sloppy debacles: "We played poo-poo." Glancing around the locker room, and thinking more deeply on the topic, he further announced: "We couldn't have played more poo-poo."

Few observers in midseason 1983 could have foretold the Raiders' emergence by season's end as the dominating monsters they so love to be.

What happened?

First, as only a few analysts pointed out at the time, Raider problems were more apparent than real. Many watched the slapstick parade of fumbles and interceptions and concluded that here was a collection of athletes not sufficiently adept at the basic movements of the sport. Quarterback Plunkett, especially, read many a description of himself including such adjectives as awkward and rag-arm. He bottomed out in Week 7, dropping the ball on two successive Raider plays when attacked in the pocket, both times inside his 20, both times leading to Seattle touchdowns.

But the facts at this juncture included a badly banged-up offensive line and a badly banged-up Plunkett. He was sacked eight times in that Seahawk disaster. Despite the reduced efficiency of these walking wounded, the Raiders did not give up their big-play approach to the game. Owner Davis climbed out of his crib crying, "Attack!" and the Raiders have been forcing the ball deep since his first day with the club. Ordinarily, Plunkett is just the man for this job, with a big arm, well-trained eyes, and a down-with-the-ship courage that transforms many an unpromising situation into soul-satisfying yardage. With his pocket leaking and his physiology malfunctioning, Plunkett gamely pressed ahead with his employer's cherished approach, and the result was fiasco.

The second factor in the Raider turnaround was, therefore, the latest resurrection in Plunkett's yo-yo career. You can find people who believe in reincarnation, but few who practice it as assiduously as James Plunkett.

This particular rebirth was aided by two weeks on the bench, two weeks that allowed his body to heal and his shell-shocked psychology to settle down. It can do wonders for a night's sleep when one ceases fearing where the next unblocked blitzer is going to come from.

"At no time did we think Jim had lost his ability to do the job," says Flores. "He still had his courage. He could still throw well. But he needed a rest."

The vacation was courtesy of young Marc Wilson, one of the unbroken sequence of passing machines turned out by Brigham Young University. He won one and lost one before retiring for the year with a broken shoulder.

Within a week Wilson, who signed a five-year $4 million contract last season, found himself being broken in gradually, after nearly three years of inactivity, as starting quarterback against the Dallas Cowboys.

He took them apart. He completed 26 of 49 for 318 yards, three touchdowns, and only one interception, as the Raiders won 40-38. Wilson looked like the answer to all the Raider difficulties. On the ensuing Sunday, however, he experienced working conditions familiar to Plunkett, involving Seattle Seahawks hanging from every limb. Between five sacks, Wilson threw four interceptions. The Raiders lost 34-21.

At this sensitive juncture, with the Denver Broncos in a tie for first and the Seahawks only a game behind, the Raiders could have gone either way. Any more collapsing pockets and overgenerous quarterbacking would have shortened the team's season considerably.

And at this sensitive juncture, Jim Plunkett arose. He not only arose, but his offensive line kept him standing. Entering the 10th game of the season, against Kansas City, just after halftime (Wilson, gamely trying to play with a broken left shoulder, had to retire), Plunkett went more than four games, nearly 150 passes, without throwing a single interception. For two games in a row, he wasn't sacked once.

Nor was this simply a case of resurgent athletes. The Raider coaching staff, honest reporters have to recount, decided to shorten the bulk of their passing game. Maybe it was Davis who broached the idea, while publicly still crying bombs away. Maybe it was Flores who, though always professing belief in the Raiders' attacking philosophy, quietly directed Plunkett's attention to tight end Christensen in the short zones and Allen slipping out of the backfield. As Plunkett said in December, "We don't want to hold the ball too long (in the pocket). That's what got us in trouble earlier in the year."

Flores made a sensible analysis.

"Just because you believe in attack football doesn't mean you have to throw the bomb on every down," he said. "If they give you the short zones, you attack those. If they know you believe in the long pass, that you're always looking for the chance to throw it, sometimes that's enough to keep them loose by itself."

In any event, the shortened-up Raider pass offense proved nearly flawless. With some help from field-goal kicker Chris Bahr, who won three games altogether on last tick kicks, the Raiders took six of their last seven.

The most relevant question concerning the future of the Raider machine as a dynasty involves the team's immediate competitive past. That question: How did the Raiders so thoroughly crush a team as good as the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl XVIII?

The simple answer is, of course, players, coaches and management.

Laurels were handed out to Jim Plunkett, Todd Christensen (46) and Marcus Allen (32), among others.

The Raiders have large helpings of all three.

Consider their defense for a moment. Seven of the starters are, or have been, Pro Bowl athletes: both ends (Alzado and Long), both outside linebackers (Rod Martin and Ted Hendricks), both cornerbacks (Hayes and Haynes), and safety McElroy. And an eighth, middle guard Reggie Kinlaw, was frequently discussed as the team's most effective athlete in the Super Bowl win. Rarely has any one professional unit featured such a prepossessing collection of well-meshed talent.

Consider the coaching: Flores has clearly established himself as a winner, with a sound strategic capability and a personality that allows the disorderly tendencies of the Raider psyche to coalesce effectively each Sunday afternoon.

Consider the front office: that is, consider Al Davis. This is a man with the requisite drive to win, a single-minded purpose that, when missing (as it is in most NFL cities), can keep a team from playing in January. He is also a man with uncommon grasp, a clear overall vision combined with the ability to fine-tune the details. Finally, Davis is a good man to play football for. He cares about his players. He gives them raises before they ask. He helps them in their private lives. And he keeps up the relationship after their playing days are done.

Alzado has strong words for Davis' detractors. "Everything you read about Davis is garbage," he says. "The people who write that stuff don't know the man. Let me put it this way: Everybody in the league would be glad to play for Al Davis."

So the Raiders are notably gifted from the top down. But are they the superteam they seemed last January?

Skeptics could start by analyzing offense. Here you find a seemingly less stunning aggregation. The stronger side of the offensive line, right guard Mickey Marvin and right tackle Henry Lawrence, was but a couple of years ago the weaker side—when Gene Upshaw and Arthur Shell still manned the Raider left. Christensen is doubtless a clever receiver, but not much of a force blocking (especially when measured against the memory of Dave Casper). Game-breaking receiver Branch is 36; he says his touchdown pattern in the Super Bowl was "the same one I've been running for the last 12 years and the same one I'll be running for the next four." But if he continues to breeze past secondaries through his late 30s, he will have accomplished something done previously by no man.

And then, of course, there is Plunkett, also 36. A minority of football pundits feels he is actually the most effective quarterback in the league right now—intelligent, field-aware, both strong-armed and accurate, and a battler who is the most effective current in-the-pocket scrambler (defined as a passer who can make a quick one-or-two step dodge and still post the ball on the money). But Plunkett aficionados are fairly rare; a more vocal contingent, in fact, can't believe the Raiders will get through another season with him under center.

Moreover, the Raiders' most brilliant offensive athlete, halfback Allen, whom many football connoisseurs would rather watch than anyone now in the game, does himself have some meaningful drawbacks. First, it's true he drops the football (15 times in 1983). Second, he is not large or strong enough to dominate games. Even in his sensational postseason, Allen got the bulk of his yards once the games were decided and defenses less intense; his 74-yard, curlicue gem against the Redskins, for instance, came one down after their last-gasp, fourth-down line buck failed on the Raider 26.

A non-believer could also make a case suggesting that the Raiders' crushing 38–9 defeat of the Redskins profited no little from the vagaries of big game timeliness. On the particular day of that game, the Raiders had many small advantages—most of them based, interestingly, on previous Redskin successes.

Going into Super Bowl XVIII, the Redskins had won 31 of their last 34. In contrast to the Raiders' sloppy year, Washington had lost only twice in 18 outings, by the grand sum of two points. Not only that, but the Redskins had beaten the Raiders themselves, back in October, and they were, of course, the reigning champs.

Taken altogether, what this success did was freeze the Redskins into a mold. No sensible coach would change a formula that had won 31 times in 34 starts—and Joe Gibbs didn't. Thus the Raiders had a stationary target. They zeroed in on the Redskin tendencies and took away what they liked to do best.

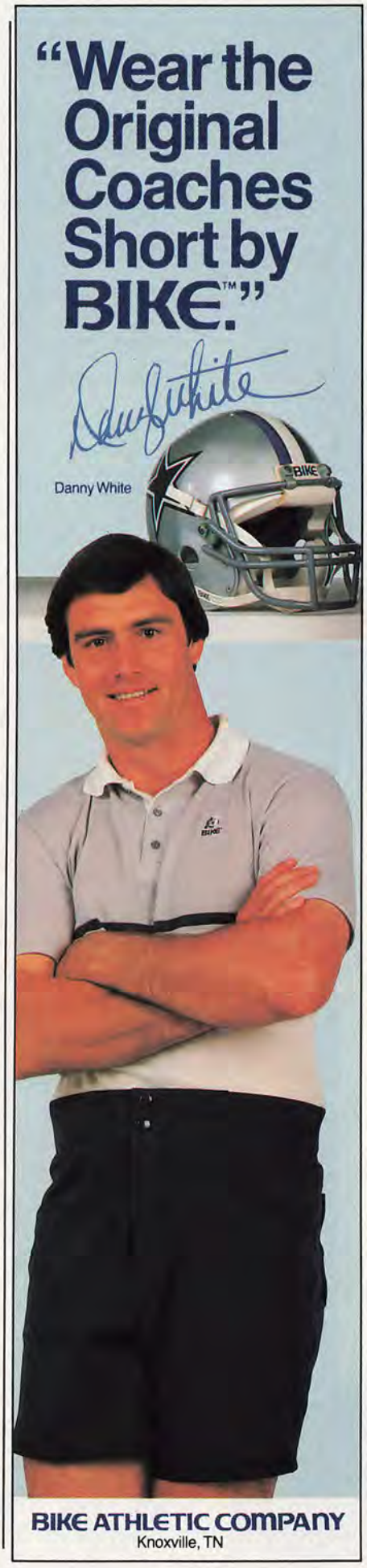
When good teams meet, however, these subtle dynamics tend to flow back and forth. Next time it will be the Raiders who will, quite certainly, repeat their successful tactics, especially on defense: linebackers up tight and a smothering man-to-man on the Redskin receivers. The Redskins, on the other hand, will be in the mood to try something new. Many things will suggest themselves, such as trap blocking on the big Raider front men (the Redskins apparently did not run a single trap last January), or cute, crisscrossing pickoff moves by the two wide receivers (a defensive cornerman absorbed in bump-and-run techniques can be easily run into a standing teammate).

Perhaps, with the tactical tables turned, the Raiders will still have the athletes and acumen to keep the squeeze on the Redskins. As long as Plunkett and Branch exhibit the high level of skill they have recently, the offense should match the defense in overall quality.

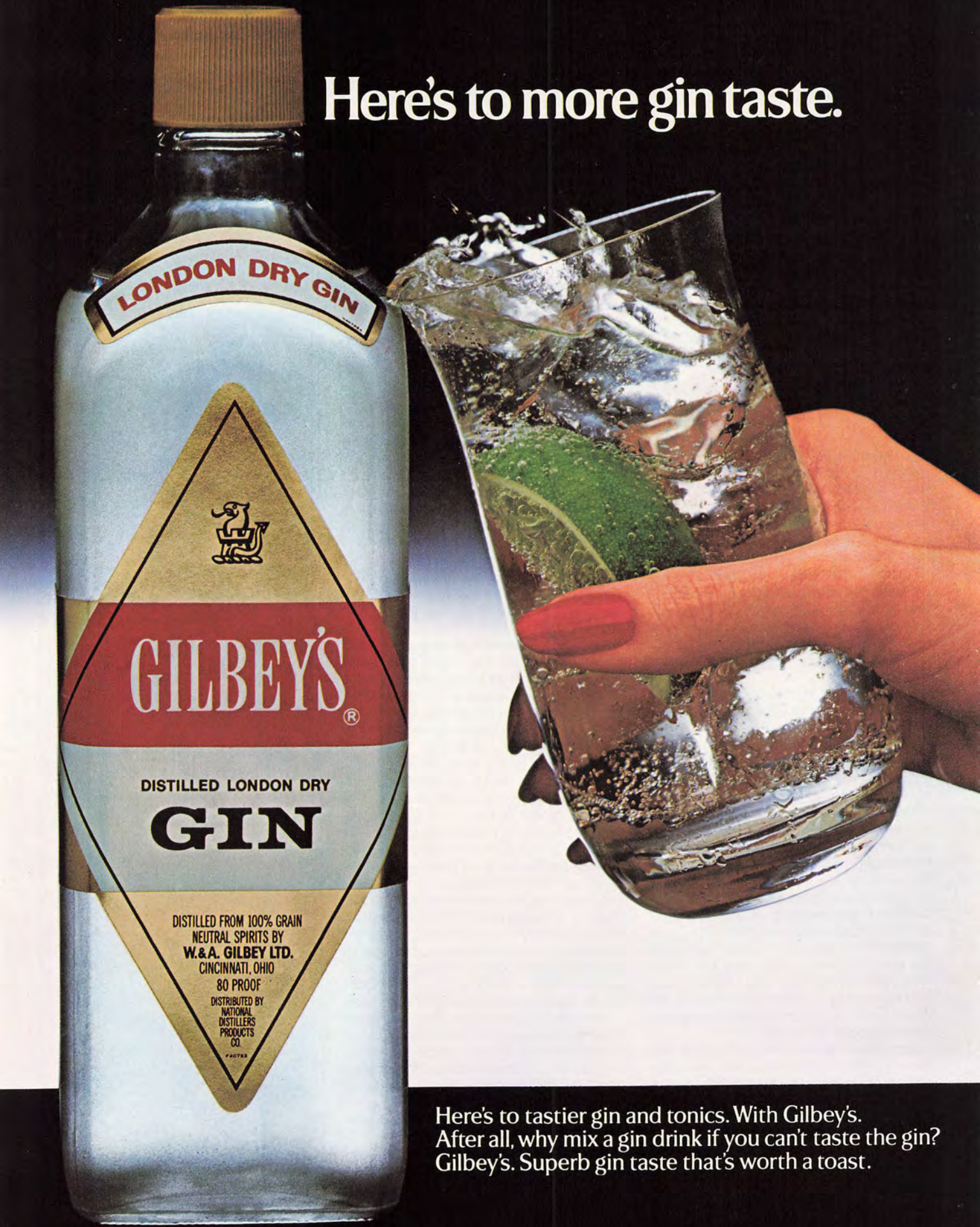
If so, all questions about the current Raider edition will be answered.

Al Davis will have brought to Los Angeles not just a team, but the Team of the Eighties.

END



Here's to more gin taste.



Here's to tastier gin and tonics. With Gilbey's.
After all, why mix a gin drink if you can't taste the gin?
Gilbey's. Superb gin taste that's worth a toast.

Super Bowl XIX Pick

Still Champions: The Raiders

by Daryl Sanders

The Los Angeles Raiders, National Football League tough guys, open their title defense on Sept. 2 against Houston in the Astrodome. The Oilers, although improved, should be the first of many Raider victims because the 1983 champions again stack up as the strongest team in pro football. Super Bowl XIX, where they will prevail over NFC champion San Francisco, will be the Raiders' final stop.

The 49ers just missed knocking off Washington for the NFC crown last year. It should be a rematch with San Francisco getting revenge and earning a trip to Stanford Stadium for the Super Bowl.

Miami should be the Raiders' opponent for the AFC championship. The Dolphins' combination of Dan Marino to Mark Duper may be super, but not with a capital S—at least not this year. Don Shula's team is still vulnerable to the run, and the Raiders have one of the league's premier running backs in Marcus Allen.

Pittsburgh and Detroit project as repeat winners in their divisions, but neither appears strong enough to advance to the conference championship.

AFC EAST

1. **Miami**
2. **New England**
3. **Indianapolis**
4. **Buffalo**
5. **New York Jets**

When the Dolphins drafted Marino last year, their offense got much-needed stability at quarterback and a bona fide long-ball threat. The combination of a revived offense and the Killer Bee defense makes Miami one of the NFL's best teams, but not *the* best. The Dolphins have been eliminated from the playoffs two consecutive years by opponents with strong running attacks. To bolster their 3-4 defense against the run, they made linebacker Jackie Shipp of Oklahoma their first pick in the draft.

Behind Miami there will be a scramble for second place and a possible wild-card playoff berth. New England appears to have the inside track. The Patriots now have three explosive offensive weapons—1000-yard rusher Tony Collins and wide receivers Stanley Morgan and Irving Fryar, the No. 1 pick in the draft. All-Pro cornerback Ray Clayborn and linebacker Steve Nelson head a defensive unit that can be unyielding when healthy.

Riding the wave of enthusiasm surrounding their move to Indianapolis, the Colts should edge Buffalo for third place. Paced by Curtis Dickey and Randy McMillan, the Colts' rushing attack was first in the AFC in '83. The kicking game, featuring placekicker Raul Allegre and punter Rohn Stark, is among the league's best.

Marcus Allen will be a factor in the title defense.

Buffalo was hurt badly by the loss of Joe Cribbs to the USFL. The Bills will have to rely more than ever on their passing game. Quarterback Joe Ferguson can still throw with the best. Last year, he completed 55.3 percent for 2,995 yards and 26 touchdowns, but he completed too many to opponents—25. The Bills also face rebuilding a defensive unit that ranked 24th in the league a year ago.

After trading quarterback Richard Todd and New York Sack Exchange members Abdul Salaam and Kenny Neil, the Jets will field many new faces. The new signal caller is Ken O'Brien, a first-round draft pick in 1983 who has never taken a snap in a regular-season game. Fortunately for the Jets, skill players Freeman McNeil, Johnny "Lam" Jones and Wesley Walker are still in the lineup.

AFC CENTRAL

1. **Pittsburgh**
2. **Cleveland**
3. **Houston**
4. **Cincinnati**

Pittsburgh should have little trouble repeating as division champion. The defense ranked third in the NFL last year and still deserves to be called the Steel Curtain. The offense, though not as big-play oriented as it was in the '70s, packs plenty of punch. Franco Harris should pass Jim Brown as the NFL's all-time rushing leader. If Terry Bradshaw has not fully recovered from his elbow injury, David Woodley, Super Bowl veteran obtained from Miami, will quarterback the Steelers.

Cleveland should finish second to Pittsburgh and strongly challenge for a wild-card playoff berth, despite the loss of quarterback Brian Sipe to the USFL's New Jersey Generals. Southpaw Paul McDonald has been waiting in the wings as Sipe's backup, and the coaching staff is expecting great things. The receiving corps, led by Ozzie Newsome with 89 receptions in '83, was strengthened with the acquisition of Duriel Harris from Miami. The defense, ninth overall last season, will get help in the secondary from first-round draftee Don Rogers from UCLA.

Houston appears to be the most improved team in the NFL. The offense features three new faces. Quarterback Warren Moon from the Canadian Football League, wide receiver Butch Johnson from Dallas and guard Dean Steinkuhler from Nebraska via the draft add the finishing touches to the rebuilding of the offense. This year, teams won't shut down the offense by keying on Earl Campbell. If the Oilers can come up with inspired defensive play, they could finish above .500.

The fall from glory by the Cincinnati Bengals will end with their plunge to the division cellar. They played in the Super Bowl in 1982. The club is aging, it lost Coach Forrest Gregg to Green Bay, and quarterback Steve Young, who would have been the club's and the league's No. 1 draft selection, took a $40 million offer to play in the USFL.

AFC WEST

1. **L.A. Raiders**
2. **San Diego**
3. **Seattle**
4. **Denver**
5. **Kansas City**

If the Raiders have a weakness, it's difficult

(continued)

(Predictions continued)

to detect. They finished sixth in team offense and fifth in team defense in 1983. They're capable of the big play on both sides of the ball. Offensively, there's running back Marcus Allen, MVP in Super Bowl XVIII; tight end Todd Christensen, the league's leading receiver last year with 92 catches; wide-out Cliff Branch, a threat to beat you deep on every down; and signal caller Jim Plunkett. Defensively, the Raiders' lineup reads like a list of the men you'd least like to meet in a dark alley. Lyle Alzado, Ted "Mad Stork" Hendricks, Lester Hayes and Mike Haynes all have Pro-Bowl selections to their credit.

Some of the Raiders' stiffest competition will come within their own division. The AFC West is arguably the NFL's strongest division.

With Dan Fouts healthy for the entire season, San Diego should finish just behind the Raiders and reach the playoffs. Last year, the Chargers led the league in total offense even with Fouts out part of the season with an injury. Defense remains the big problem, as an overall ranking of 26th in 1983 indicates.

Seattle was the league's surprise team a year ago and made the playoffs for the first time in the history of the franchise. The key figures in the Seahawks' drive to the AFC championship game were new Coach Chuck Knox and rookie running back Curt Warner. The defense, which finished next to last in the league, must be reinforced for the Seahawks to continue their newfound success.

Denver quarterback John Elway should be more comfortable with the offense in his second season, but the Broncos need help at running back and on defense.

Another team that needs to improve its running attack is Kansas City. In 1983, the Chiefs finished last in rushing offense. The passing game was an entirely different matter. Quarterback Bill Kenney connected on 57.4 percent of his passes for 4,348 yards and 24 touchdowns. Even with a respectable defensive effort and another big year from Kenney, the Chiefs won't be serious contenders in their division.

NFC EAST

1. **Washington**
2. **Dallas**
3. **St. Louis**
4. **Philadelphia**
5. **New York Giants**

Despite a poor showing in Super Bowl XVIII, Washington is still one of the NFL's strongest teams and the established leader in the NFC East. With Joe Theismann, John Riggins, Joe Washington, Charlie Brown and Art Monk in the lineup, the Redskins field a veteran offense that can strike with lightning quickness or control the ball and the clock. Defensively, the Redskins must tighten up a secondary susceptible to long pass completions.

Despite changes, both completed and pending, Dallas will do no better than second in the division, but that should still be enough to earn a wild-card berth in the playoffs. This may be the year Gary Hogeboom finally wrestles the starting quarterback job from Danny White. Tony Dorsett remains one of the league's showcase running backs, but the vaunted defense is showing signs of age.

After one of the worst starts in 1983, St. Louis rallied for one of the strongest finishes. The Cardinals sank to a 1-5 record before winding up with a 10-game string of 7-2-1. The Redbirds intend to extend that momentum. Running back Ottis Anderson and quarterback Neil Lomax remain the leaders on offense. Last year, the St. Louis defense ranked sixth overall and must do equally well this season if the Cards are to make a postseason appearance.

Philadelphia is another Super Bowl team of recent years that has been hit by age and injury. Quarterback Ron Jaworski must bounce back from an off year and running back Wilbert Montgomery must stay healthy if the Eagle offense is to improve on its next-to-last 1983 ranking in the division.

The New York Giants are the only reason Philadelphia is not in the division cellar. The defense, led by linebacker Lawrence Taylor, was fifth overall last season, but the offense had problems, particularly at quarterback and in the offensive line.

NFC CENTRAL

1. **Detroit**
2. **Green Bay**
3. **Chicago**
4. **Minnesota**
5. **Tampa Bay**

Detroit should repeat as the winner in this division of so-so teams, relying on the running of Billy Sims and a defense that was second in points allowed last year. Eric Hipple and Gary Danielson will split the quarterback duties again.

Green Bay's fortunes will be boosted by the return of former Packer player Gregg as coach. Gregg plans to take the potent offensive machine he inherited from departed coach Bart Starr, mix in some defense (the Pack was last in the NFL in '83) and book passage to the playoffs. Gregg won't turn the defense into a world-beater overnight, but with slightly better defense in a few games last season, the Packers would have edged the Lions for the division crown.

A slow start prevented Chicago from reaching the playoffs in 1983. They finished by winning five of their last six games for an 8-8 record. The Bears should enjoy an emotional lift and challenge for a playoff berth as running back Walter Payton battles Franco Harris to surpass Jim Brown as the NFL's all-time leading rusher.

For the first time since 1967, Minnesota will be playing for a coach other than Bud Grant, who retired after the '83 season. Assistant Les Steckel was elevated to the head position. The best problem facing Steckel is choosing a starting quarterback from among Tommy Kramer, Steve Dils and Archie Manning. The worst problem is strengthening the defense. Once known across the league as the Purple People Eaters, the Viking defense is still purple, but eaten more often than eating.

After quarterback Doug Williams left for the USFL, Tampa Bay's offense became the worst in the league. John McKay will have to find a way to get the offense untracked. The Buc defense, headed by Hugh Green and Lee Roy Selmon, suffered a slight dropoff in '83, but is still potentially one of the NFL's stingiest.

NFC WEST

1. **San Francisco**
2. **L.A. Rams**
3. **New Orleans**
4. **Atlanta**

Like its counterpart in the AFC, the West is the most competitive division in the NFC. Like the Raiders, San Francisco will face some of the stiffest opposition in its drive to the NFC championship within its own division.

The 49ers were fourth in overall offense last season due largely to the addition of Wendell Tyler and Roger Craig. This running back tandem provided a dimension missing in the past, even during the team's Super Bowl championship season in 1981-82. Quarterback Joe Montana was as effective as ever. In '83, he hit on 64.5 percent of his passes for 3,910 yards and 26 touchdowns. Split end Dwight Clark with 70 catches was Montana's favorite target. The 49ers need more big plays from a defense that ranked 10th overall.

San Francisco's chief opponent for the division title will be the Los Angeles Rams. They also need to improve defensively. They'll be counting on Vince Ferragamo's arm and Eric Dickerson's legs to provide much of the offensive punch. After guiding his team to the playoffs last year, Coach John Robinson enters the second year of his efforts to rebuild the Ram program to championship caliber.

New Orleans' defense finished second overall a year ago, first against the pass. The club narrowly missed its first-ever playoff berth on a last-minute Ram field goal. Defense again will be the Saints' strong suit, but the acquisition of quarterback Richard Todd from the Jets gives them the field general they've needed. George Rogers heads the rushing attack.

Atlanta's high-powered offense features William Andrews, the NFL's most versatile back, and quarterback Steve Bartkowski, who led the NFL in passing efficiency. The defense must be strengthened, however, or the Falcons will again find themselves in the division cellar.

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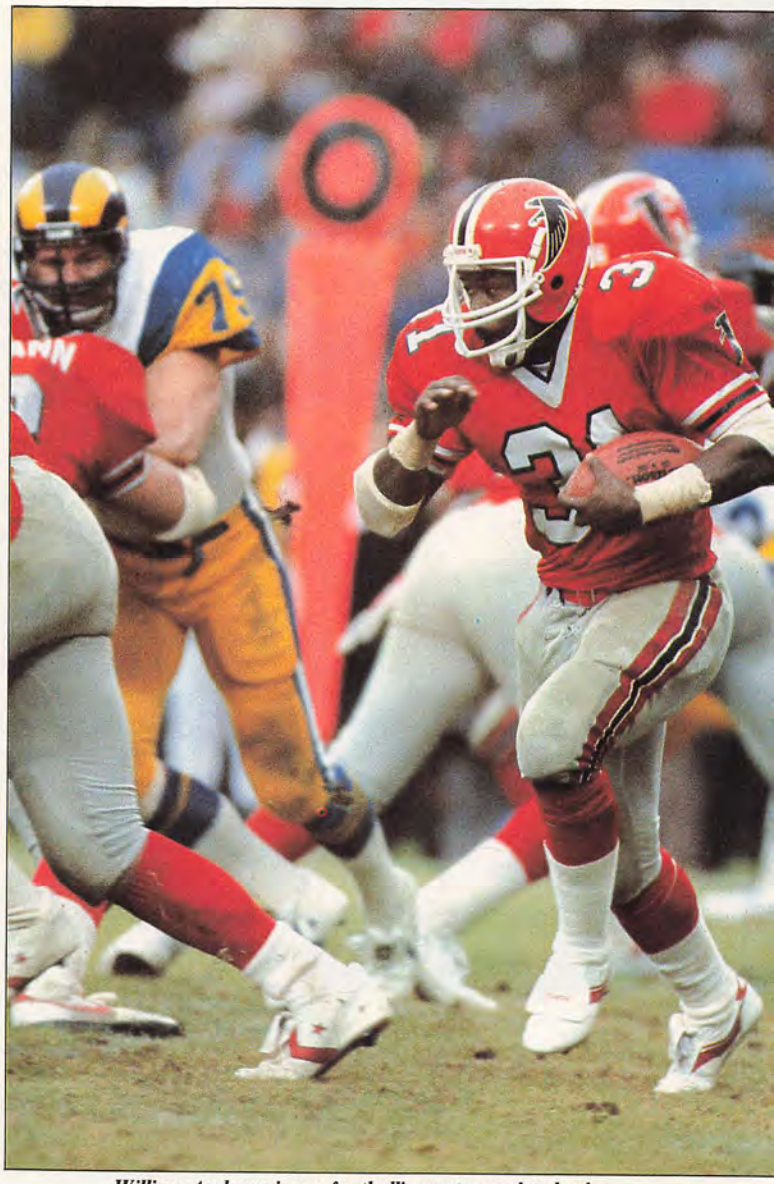
William Andrews:

There's a New Breed of Running Back in the NFL, And He's the Leading Exponent



William Andrews is pro football's most complete back.

by Peter Finney

It was Pro Bowl week a few years ago, and the elite running backs of the National Football Conference were there, marquee names like Walter Payton, Billy Sims and O.J. Anderson, all with one item at the top of their wish list.

They wanted William Andrews blocking when they carried the football.

It figured.

William Andrews has been the best-kept secret in the NFL for the last five years.

Consider a trivia question: There have been only three players in NFL history to get 2,000 combined yards (rushing and receiving) twice in their careers. Who are they?

In a hurry, you'd probably come up with O.J. Simpson and Payton.

But, to have named William Andrews, you'd probably have to live in Atlanta or be a fan of the Falcons.

It's all because, without fanfare, Andrews has become the league's 25th leading rusher of all time with 5,772 yards, and, more significantly, in the last five years, he leads all backs in total rushing-receiving yardage with 8,384.

"He'll probably never get the recognition he deserves," says John North, who handled Falcon running backs when Leeman Bennett was head coach. But North mentioned the respect the big names in pro football have for someone who has proven he can do it all—with only six feet and 206 pounds going for him.

"Andrews is the most complete running back in the game, and I wouldn't trade him for anyone in the league," says North. "If you're choosing sides, you might not pick him to sell tickets, but you'd sure pick him to win games."

Running, catching, blocking—there's never been a more productive back over five seasons in the history of the pro game.

When O.J. Simpson ran for 2,003 yards in 1973 to shatter an almost-mythical barrier, he caught passes for only 70 yards.

It was a performance that blew the minds of the media. With the ball under his arm, Simpson had few equals. But, on a production scale, O.J.'s 2,073 yards fell short of what Andrews did last season when he rushed for 1,567 yards and caught passes for 609 yards, a total of 2,176.

Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams led the league in this two-dimensional statistic with 2,212 yards.

One might say, yes, but Andrews had 16 games to do it, two more than Simpson.

You can reply that Andrews' statistics do not tell you what he does best, what Simpson was seldom asked to do, what Jim Brown didn't have to do.

Andrews blocks, maybe as well as anyone who ever lowered his shoulder pads. "William has a body dip at the point of contact that is something to behold," North explains. "He's what you call a sticky blocker."

Andrews says, "I like to take the fight to them before they take it to me. When you do that, it's

(continued on page 171)

JETS

Shortly after the 1983 NFL season ended, the coaching staff of the New York Jets held an important meeting. Something had gone terribly wrong in the previous six months, and the coaches realized that unless major changes were made, they would be looking for new jobs.

One suggested giving Ken O'Brien, the team's No. 1 draft choice in 1983, an opportunity to beat out the veteran Richard Todd at quarterback.

Another thought that if they did, Todd might sulk, play out his option and take off for another team in the NFL or USFL, while the Jets received nothing in return.

The coaching staff was aware, of course, that although Todd had completed almost 60 percent of his passes, he had thrown 26 interceptions. He had known insults, taunts and media pressure.

"He has arm strength, touch, poise, and maneuverability; he can throw short and long; he throws a ball that's easy to catch; and he's accurate. He has better field vision than Marino."

The upshot was that a decision was made to find out if a satisfactory trade could be arranged. A few weeks later, the Jets announced that they had sent the 30-year-old quarterback to the New Orleans Saints in exchange for a No. 1 draft choice.

No one in New York knows very much about O'Brien. It was a distinct surprise when the Jets selected him out of California-Davis, a Division II school, ahead of Dan Marino, who was drafted later in the first round by the Miami Dolphins. Marino went on to lead the AFC in passing. O'Brien didn't throw a pass. He sat on the bench all season.

When the 1984 training camp opened, however, O'Brien was battling Pat Ryan, Todd's backup the last six years, for the starting job.

"When I first saw him, I thought that this must have been the way Ken Anderson looked in college," said Mike Hickey, Jets' director of player personnel, after drafting O'Brien.

"This kid was dominant at his position in Division II. He could have been dominant in Division I. He has arm strength, touch, poise, and maneuverability; he can throw short and long; he throws a ball that's easy to catch; and he's accurate. He has better field vision than Marino."

Hickey first saw O'Brien in a game against Hayward State. Hickey had left the beaten track of the major college circuit, telling a scout from the Raiders that he was going to San Jose State. The Raider scout told Hickey he was going to see Stanford play Arizona State. Both showed up at Cal-Davis, a school located 65 miles northeast of San Francisco known nationally for its school of grape growing.

At Davis they were joined by a man from Minnesota. "We looked at each other and said, 'What are you doing here?' " Hickey laughs. "Of course, we all knew why we were there. Ken put on a fine show: 10 completions in 17 throws for 180 yards, a touchdown pass and no interceptions. From then on, I was a Ken O'Brien man."

O'Brien completed 217 of 349 passes for 2,976 yards and 23 touchdowns in his senior season, leading Cal-Davis to a 12-1 record. He missed the division championship game due to a sprained ankle, and his team lost. But he had long before impressed NFL scouts.

O'Brien, son of a Sacramento orthopedic surgeon, was not highly recruited in high school. He began his college career at Sacramento State, but was not particularly enamored of the school's option offense and transferred the following year to Cal-Davis and the pro-style passing offense of Coach Jim Sochor.

"He did everything we asked of him," says Sochor. "I don't think the Jets will be sorry they took him. He's going to be a fine pro quarterback."

O'Brien's finest hour last year came in a preseason game when he played a quarter against the New York Giants and completed seven of 10 passes for 80 yards and a touchdown. In fact, it was his only hour.

"They didn't even give me a clipboard," says O'Brien. "I just stood there and watched. At least, I had a better seat than most people.

(continued)

Bruce Harper will take handoffs and catch passes from somebody new, Ken O'Brien (inset), No. 1 '83 draft pick.

JETS
JETS
18

Joe Klecko jumps at every chance to sack a quarterback (this one: the Patriots' Steve Grogan).

(New York Jets continued)

"Sure, it was frustrating. I wondered why they had drafted me. It's difficult to go to practice every day and know you won't be doing anything to make you a better player."

O'Brien's roommates, Dan Alexander, Scott Dierking and Guy Bingham, were supportive. So were Todd and Ryan.

"Everybody told me, 'Don't worry, your turn will come.' I'm sure they felt uncomfortable. They were playing; I wasn't. But they helped me get through it. Richard was great. He helped me out in the meetings, on the field. I hope he's happy in New Orleans."

O'Brien was stunned when the Jets traded Todd to the Saints. "Richard shouldn't be blamed for what happened last year," says O'Brien, "but for one reason or another, the quarterback always seems to take the heat.

"I think I can relax and handle pressure. No one can put more pressure on me than I'm going to put on myself.

"You have to deal with the media and the fans. I talked to Richard about that. He tried to ignore it, but I'm sure it finally got to him last year.

"But I think this will work out for both of us. Richard is happy with the change, happy back home in the South. And I'm happy to get the chance to play. I'm excited about football again. I couldn't say that last year."

The education of the young quarterback started in early March. O'Brien spent the month huddled with Coach Joe Walton in the film room going over the offense, understanding his philosophy.

"I didn't spend much time with him one-on-one during the season because all the meetings were geared to Richard," O'Brien says. "He is very patient with me. He tries to tell me how every play is run, and why. It's not just an offense to him, it's a whole system he's thought out over the years. He wants perfection, and he wants me to be the best quarterback I can be.

"I'm hoping to bring consistency to it. I've always been able to move the team downfield. That's his philosophy. Keep it moving, keep them guessing.

"I know people are saying, 'Who is this guy O'Brien?' They wonder why the Jets took me. Well, I'm anxious to show them why. I played in a pro-style offense in college. I went to tryout

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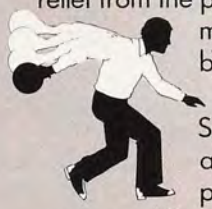

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camps after college and saw the quarterbacks who finished when I did. I could throw with those guys. Tony Eason is a good friend of mine from Sacramento. We're comparable in a lot of ways. I've always had confidence in my ability."

So does Walton.

"We made him our No. 1 choice for a reason," says the coach. "We think he has everything it takes to be a fine quarterback in this league. He'll compete with Ryan for the job. My main thought is to get them both prepared to be No. 1."

The Jets were picked by many to win the AFC East Division and be a Super Bowl contender in Walton's first season as head coach, but it never happened.

Instead, the Jets finished 7-9. This year they are leaving Shea Stadium for the Meadowlands in New Jersey. New quarterback, new stadium, new hope.

"I learned a great deal last season," Walton says, "but my feeling hasn't changed that there's a fine line between winning and losing."

The Jets lost five games in '83 by seven points or less, two in the final 30 seconds. The team suffered key injuries at several positions. Freeman McNeil, the NFL's leading rusher in 1982, missed seven games with a shoulder separation. He gained 654 yards. Third-down specialist Bruce Harper, who averaged 6.9 yards, missed half the season.

Also injured were guard Stan Waldemore, center Joe Fields, linebacker Greg Buttle, defensive tackle Abdul Salaam, fullback Mike Augustyniak and running back Johnny Hector.

Besides trading Todd, the Jets sent Salaam and defensive lineman Kenny Neil to San Diego and linebacker Stan Blinka to Denver. The Neil-Salaam deal will allow Walton to move Joe Klecko back to defensive end, where he was All-Pro before tearing up his knee in 1982. The Jets also are high on Barry Bennett at defensive tackle.

Other familiar faces make the Jets think they can contend again: end Mark Gastineau, who led the team with 19 sacks; swift receivers Wesley Walker and Lam Jones; and promising second-year linebacker Bob Crable, who led the team in tackles in seven of the 10 games he started.

Gastineau, Klecko, guard Alexander, offensive tackle Marvin Powell and linebacker Lance Mehl were selected to the Pro Bowl. Return man Kirk Springs led the AFC and finished second in the NFL in punt returns with a 12.5-yard average.

"People probably are saying that with a young quarterback, there's no way we can be a playoff team," O'Brien says. "That's ridiculous. This team is so talented, so deep and so young. For us not to do well, something would have to be really wrong.

"This is a playoff team, I can tell you that. And it will come back fighting. I know I will."

END

Fumbling is hardly the good part of football, Freeman McNeil would say.

Jets' center Joe Fields (above) is bent on improving their lot. So is defensive end Mark Gastineau.

SAN FRANCISCO

After going 3-6 as defending Super Bowl champion in the strike-shortened season of 1982, the San Francisco 49ers rebounded smartly to capture the NFL Western Division with a 10-6 record.

Once you've been to the mountaintop, however, simply making the playoffs is not enough. With this in mind, Coach Bill Walsh looks ahead to another year when his football team has the stuff to go all the way.

If there were two pluses to roller coaster '83, they were an improved running game and a more consistent defense.

And, if you looked for two reasons, you would find them in running back Wendell Tyler and linebacker Keena Turner.

"Keena Turner may be the most underrated defensive player in the league," says Walsh. Turner had 40 solo tackles and four sacks, and defensed 10 passes.

Tyler struggled with a fumbling problem, but his breakaway speed and 4.9-yard average in 176 carries gave the 49er ground game something it had been lacking.

Turner, meanwhile, went about his business quietly, allowing pass rusher Fred Dean and defensive backs Ronnie Lott and Dwight Hicks to take most of the bows. "Keena Turner may be the most underrated defensive player in the league," says Walsh. Turner had 40 solo tackles and four sacks, and defensed 10 passes.

Tyler, a star at UCLA, arrived with much fanfare, having been acquired in a 1983 draft trade with the Rams. Turner, on the other hand, was a second-round pick out of Purdue in '80, who has improved each year. As a rookie, he started the final four games at outside linebacker in place of the injured Willie Harper. In the Super Bowl season of '81, he had 58 solo tackles, three sacks, an interception and three fumble recoveries in the regular season. He was a terror in the playoffs.

"He probably has more potential than anyone on the team at any position," says Walsh. "He's a complete linebacker."

A product of Chicago's Vocational High, the school that produced Dick Butkus, Turner got his name from a little Indian boy on a TV program. "My mother heard it and liked it," he says. "It's a name that's hard to forget."

In a game against the 49ers last season, St. Louis Cardinal running back Ottis Anderson found Turner hard to forget. Anderson was put out of the game by a shattering bit of contact that came on the end of a screen pass. "Just as he turned downfield," Turner explains, "I was there."

With linebackers Harper and Bobby Leopold having left the NFL in favor of the USFL, Turner looms larger in 49er plans. The loss of this pair, plus the fact that Hacksaw Reynolds is now 36, means that Walsh looks to surround Turner with capable company.

Turner will man one of the outside spots, along with either sixth-year man Dan Bunz, who was the team's No. 1 pick in '78, or Frank LeMaster, newly acquired from the Philadelphia Eagles.

On the inside, Reynolds is joined by Riki Ellison, who last year won a starting job as a rookie.

The secondary should be one of the best. Lott, a two-time All-Pro and Pro Bowler, will team with Eric Wright at the corners. Wright led the team with seven interceptions and his return average—23.4 yards—was best in the NFL. Lott and Wright finished one-two on the club in tackles.

Carlton Williamson returns as strong safety and Hicks is back as free safety. Walsh feels Williamson has been his most consistent defensive back. Hicks missed a mid-season game last year because of a contract dispute that finally was worked out.

Desperate for a nose tackle after Pete Kugler jumped to the USFL, Walsh traded with San Diego for veteran Lou Kelcher and with Seattle for Manu Tuiasosopo. The 49ers are set at the ends in the 3-4 alignment with Dean coming off a 17½-sack season and Dwaine Board a 13-sack year. Dean's total, a 49er record, made him No. 1 in the NFC and second in the NFL behind Mark Gastineau of the Jets.

(continued)

Forty-six TDs and 5,775 yards represent the pass-run-receiving contribution last year of Roger Craig, Joe Montana and Wendell Tyler.

33
28

When John Riggins batters the line, end Dwaine Board tries to rise to the occasion.

(San Francisco continued)

"If we can stay free of injury," says Walsh, "we'll be OK on defense."

Tyler found good company in the backfield in rookie Roger Craig, whose total of 725 yards was not far behind Tyler's 856.

The 29-year-old Tyler, who scored 33 touchdowns and rushed for more than 3,000 yards in his six seasons with the Rams, was someone Walsh wanted all along. The trade was good for Tyler in that the Rams were preparing to draft Eric Dickerson.

"I feel like I'm starting over," says Tyler. "I'm really lucky. I'm still on the West Coast, with a team that has a chance to go all the way."

"He's an exciting player," says Walsh. "He's a big-play man who makes things happen. He's been awfully impressive."

Tyler's image as a fumbler continues to haunt him. "There are running backs in this league who fumble more than I do, but maybe they don't fumble as much in critical situations," he says. "It's always a mental lapse. I'm thinking of getting the first down or the touchdown instead of protecting the ball."

A runner like Tyler allows Walsh to set up a sophisticated passing game that features quarterback Joe Montana and wide receivers Dwight Clark, Freddie Solomon and Renaldo Nehemiah, and tight end Russ Francis. "I consider myself the spark for the offense," says Tyler. "I'm an innovator and a motivator."

He says he also likes running behind a line that includes Keith Fahnhorst, who had his best season in 1983, and Bubba Paris, a top pick in '82 who missed last year because of injury. "The Rams' line had faster men who would give you downfield blocks," says Tyler, "but the 49er line sustains blocks longer and that's better for me. I figure your line has to give you the first four yards. Once you're in the secondary, it's up to you. I've always liked the quick-hitting plays. The way this line holds its blocks, it gives me time to pick my holes."

"Eric is a very good back with great potential," says Tyler. "I may be a step slower but, like wine, I'm more refined with age."

The presence of Tyler takes pressure off Montana, who completed 64.5 percent of his passes for 3,910 yards and 26 touchdowns. He threw only 12 interceptions in 515 throws, second best in the conference.

It was a tribute to Montana and the defense that the 49ers, after a 6-2 start, managed to recover from a midseason tailspin (when they lost four of five) to finish with three victories and capture the division title.

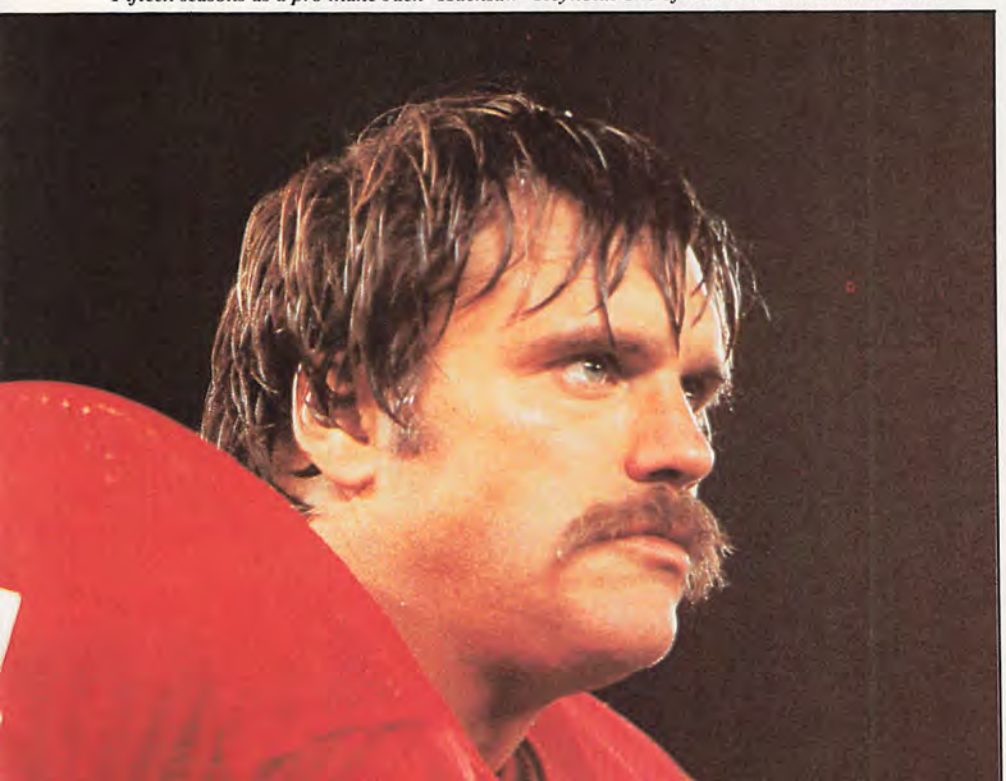
The 49ers overcame their share of injuries last season. Long before Clark went down in the final regular-season game, Solomon had missed several games. Williamson broke a leg before the season, and his replacement, Rick Gervais, broke a bone in his neck after five games, triggering a major reshuffling in the secondary.

Barring further injury, Walsh feels he has the personnel to repeat as division champion. He is counting heavily on a healthy Montana and Tyler, who is obviously happy in his new surroundings.

Also determined. Determined to hold his own against Dickerson, the league rushing leader last year. "Eric is a very good back with great potential," says Tyler. "I may be a step slower but, like wine, I'm more refined with age. I've learned more as I've gotten older. I've learned to enjoy the game. Sure, I'd like to get more yardage than Dickerson, but it's more important to get a victory."

END

Fifteen seasons as a pro make Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds one of the NFL's oldest linebackers.



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RAMS

Not even the team's worst loss in the 47-year history of the franchise—51-7 to the Redskins in the playoffs—could put a damper on the Los Angeles Rams' swing back to NFL respectability.

After going 6-10 and 2-7 the two previous years, the Rams finished 10-8 under new Coach John Robinson and, in the process, unveiled a new superstar.

Eric Dickerson is the kind of player who can win a football game by himself. As he looks ahead, Robinson has Dickerson in mind when he says: "The key is to get the dominant type of player who can make the play that makes the difference."

While it was Robinson's good fortune that Dickerson came along at the right time, you have to credit the coach for making the right move—trading Wendell Tyler to clear the way.

"I was stunned by his toughness," he says. "It really stuck out on film. I said, 'This guy really attacks.' And the vision was definitely there."

"When I realized we had a chance to get Eric," says Robinson, "I was interested in only two things: Was he tough enough? Did he have good vision?"

It didn't take long for Robinson to get affirmative answers.

"I was stunned by his toughness," he says. "It really stuck out on film. I said, 'This guy really attacks.' And the vision was definitely there."

What the enemy saw was a chariot of fire, someone 6-3, 220, with the instinct and toughness to run for 1,808 yards, best ever by a rookie. He did it on 390 carries, an NFL record. He set Ram records for carries in a single game (34) and touchdowns for a season (20). He had nine 100-yard rushing games.

In a way, Dickerson reminded Robinson of Marcus Allen, who played for him at Southern California and is now an All-Pro on a Super Bowl champion. "Marcus can run right at you and be aggressive, yet make you miss at the last second," says Robinson. "It's like making a boxer miss a punch by one inch. A good fighter will make you miss by an inch and maintain his balance.

"If Eric is confronted, he lowers his shoulder and hits you. You watch film and you say, 'This is the end.' It isn't. There's a collision and Eric gets the better of it."

It's vision, says Robinson, that separates the great from the good. "I don't know how to explain it. It's the wiring between the eyes and the brain. I think they just see differently; they deal differently with time and space. It's like the great musicians; they hear differently."

And the idea is not to fence him in, but give him free rein.

"Most of our plays give Eric several options," says Robinson. "We tell him, 'Run to here, then make a decision.' You've got to create an offense that gives him a chance. He has all the ingredients you look for. He has more speed than I've ever dealt with. Marcus doesn't have the absolute speed this man has."

O.J. Simpson, who had world-class speed, says Dickerson can't help but benefit from the single-back alignment. "Eric has everything any back ever had. He's playing for a guy who knows the running game, and he's playing on a good team. He doesn't have to create anything. With his ability, he could be the best there ever was.

"He can come off a hit and already be faking the next guy. He's thinking ahead. He's a natural breakaway runner, like Jon Arnett and Hugh McElhenny. Eric always seems to have another step. He always seems to have a little something else."

Dickerson says his running is entirely instinctive.

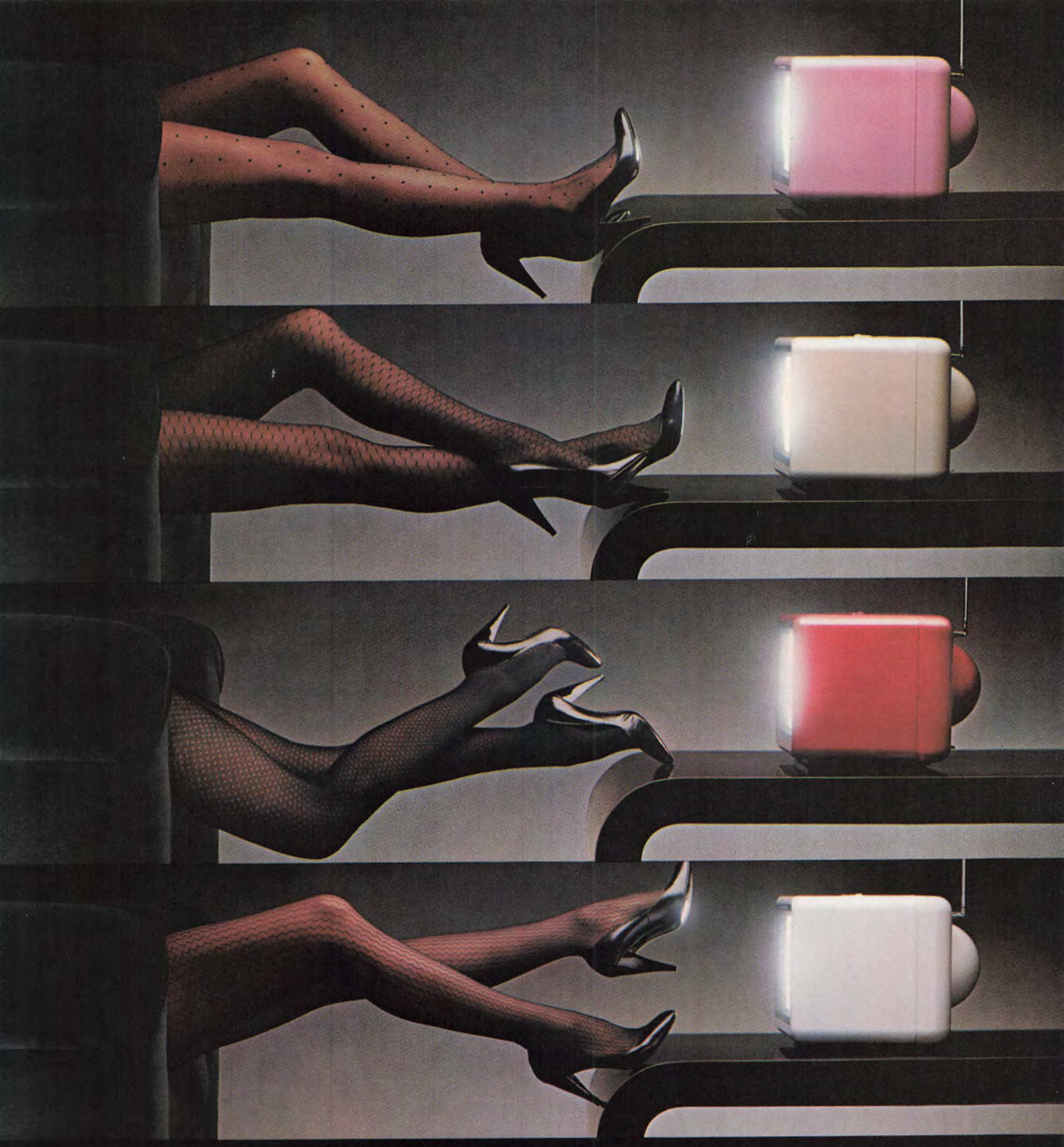
"I don't go out there and say I'm gonna give him a leg, then take it away," he explains. "I might do it but I don't think about it. I was blessed. It was God-given talent."

Clearly, Dickerson was a rookie whose time had arrived. No less an observer than Jim Brown, pro football's No. 1 all-time rusher with 12,312 yards in nine seasons, has joined his fan club. "When the world was worshipping Herschel Walker, I thought Dickerson was a better pure runner," says Brown. "He has truer instincts and a greater understanding of a runner's style."

(continued)

Eric Dickerson: Jim Brown likes the way he attacks, O.J. Simpson his breakaway ability, John Robinson his toughness and speed.

29



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(Los Angeles Rams continued)

Primarily, Brown liked the way Dickerson attacked. "It's almost as important as speed and strength," says Brown. "Attacking is the key for any runner because that's the only way you're going to break tackles. You don't absorb that much punishment, either. You deal it out. It's good to see a runner who has a sense of the (first down) yardsticks."

Brown also likes the way Dickerson's coach uses him. "John Robinson has a knowledge of the running game," he says. "When Dickerson was fumbling (six times in the first three games) and looking tentative, Robinson stuck by him. Bum Phillips did the same thing for Earl Campbell in Houston."

As good a rookie season as Dickerson had, Brown maintains that greatness is proven through consistency. "Can he stand up for 16 games and perform at that level for five years? That's the question. He's a fantastic talent. But he still has to face the wars, the injuries, the cold weather, the defenses ganging up on him. It's too soon to make a final judgment."

"Each one of that boy's legs is gonna be worth a million dollars."

Growing up in the farming town of Sealy, Texas, west of Houston, Dickerson was encouraged to play baseball, not football, by his great-great aunt, Viola Dickerson, the woman who raised him.

"I was afraid he'd get hurt," she says. "It's such a dangerous game. It makes you shiver when you see them pile up."

But Dickerson went on to lead Sealy to the Texas AA high school state championship. In his senior year, he gained 2,653 yards, including 311—and four touchdowns—in the state championship game. For his career, he amassed almost 6,000 yards.

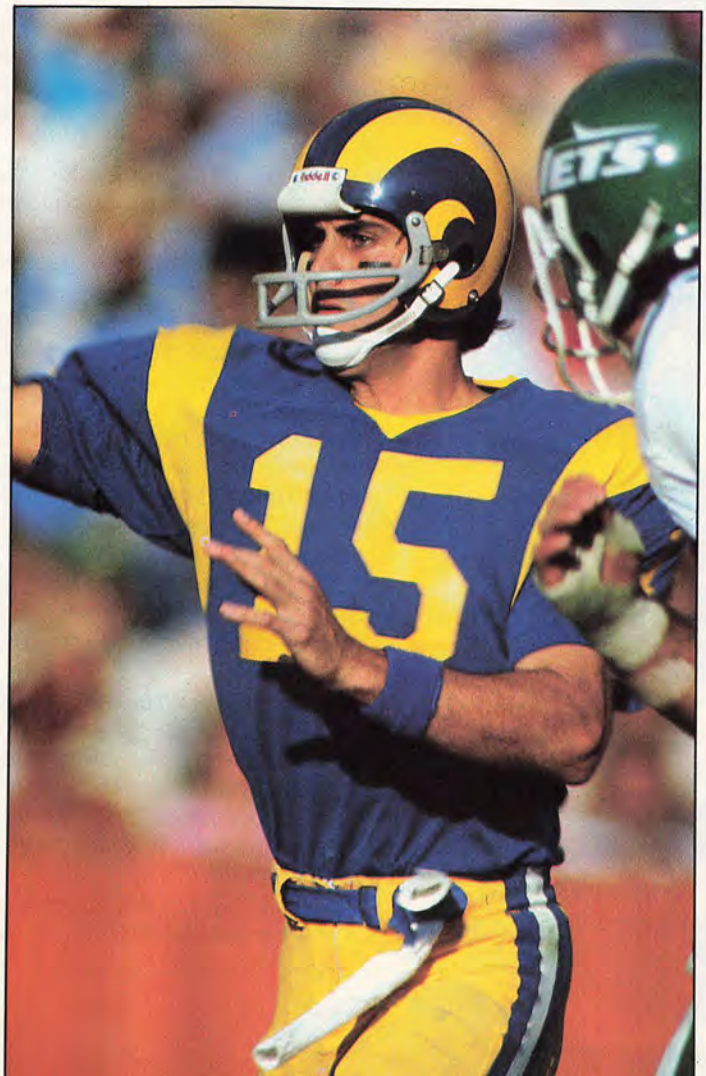
"We'd be at the game," says Viola, "and people would be telling me how great he was. I'll never forget one coach saying, 'Each one of that boy's legs is gonna be worth a million dollars.' I didn't think he knew what he was talking about."

Money was a problem but Eric wasn't.

"He's been a sweet kid all his life," says Viola. "He didn't cause a minute's trouble. One of his teachers didn't like him. This teacher had never taught at an integrated school. But Eric stuck in there, and when he finished, the teacher thought Eric was the best kid in the world."

And perhaps the thriftiest. Although Dickerson signed a four-year contract worth $2.2 million that will be spread over nine years, he moved into a modest apartment in Anaheim and drove the same car he drove in college. But he bought a Cadillac for Viola and built her a new house.

(continued on page 151)



(Above) Jack Youngblood's record as defensive end for the Rams in the last 13 years speaks for itself. (Left) Vince Ferragamo may show the way to another playoff berth this season.

NEW ORLEANS

When Richard Todd was offered to the New Orleans Saints for a No. 1 draft choice, Bum Phillips was somewhat skeptical.

A No. 1 selection and nothing more seemed too little for a 30-year-old quarterback, who, two years ago, led the New York Jets to within one win of an appearance in the Super Bowl.

"I thought something might be wrong with him," says the Saints' coach. "A first-round pick for a proven quarterback—check the record to see how much this kind of player costs a club."

With a 38-year-old Ken Stabler, whose legs make him a week-to-week proposition, and with a 25-year-old Dave Wilson, who may have a rotator cuff problem in his throwing arm, it was an offer Phillips couldn't refuse.

The Todd trade was part of a major housecleaning by the Jets and, Bum surmised, the Jets felt it would be better to deal their quarterback to another conference.

The Saints were a young 8-8 club with one of the best defenses in the league, a team knocked out of the 1983 playoffs on a last-second field goal by the Los Angeles Rams in the final regular-season game.

Phillips didn't have to check to see what Todd had done. He had a hand in beating the Saints, Rams and 49ers. In fact, in a win over Los Angeles, he passed for nearly 450 yards. The Todd trade was part of a major housecleaning by the Jets and, Bum surmised, the Jets felt it would be better to deal their quarterback to another conference.

With the USFL having already picked off several No. 1 choices, Phillips reasoned that the Saints' pick—the 15th—had diminished in value.

He realized he was getting a player who figures to win the starting job, who would have no problem getting along with Stabler, a fellow Alabamian and close friend, and Wilson.

As for Todd's feelings about the change of scenery, he says, "Things couldn't have worked out better. It's going to be like starting a new life."

The more he thought about it, he couldn't come up with a single negative.

"The Saints are a good, young team with their best years ahead, like the Jets in '81 and '82," says Todd. "The players are hungry. I was born in Birmingham and my parents live in Mobile. I'm a Southern guy. I like Southern people. You understand them, they understand you. I'll be able to wear my boots and blue jeans, and no one will look at me funny."

Not only has he been a long-time friend of Stabler, he was looking forward to playing for Phillips, a man whose approach to football has been compared to the late Bear Bryant's, Todd's coach at Alabama.

Todd also realized something else. "New York," he says, "is a crazy place. It's the greatest place to play when you win. It's the worst place to play when you lose. There's no in-between."

As the No. 1 pick of the Jets in '76, it didn't take long for him to understand that following Joe Namath was a no-win situation. Although Namath enjoyed only three winning seasons in 12, Todd was constantly measured against Namath's Super Bowl victory.

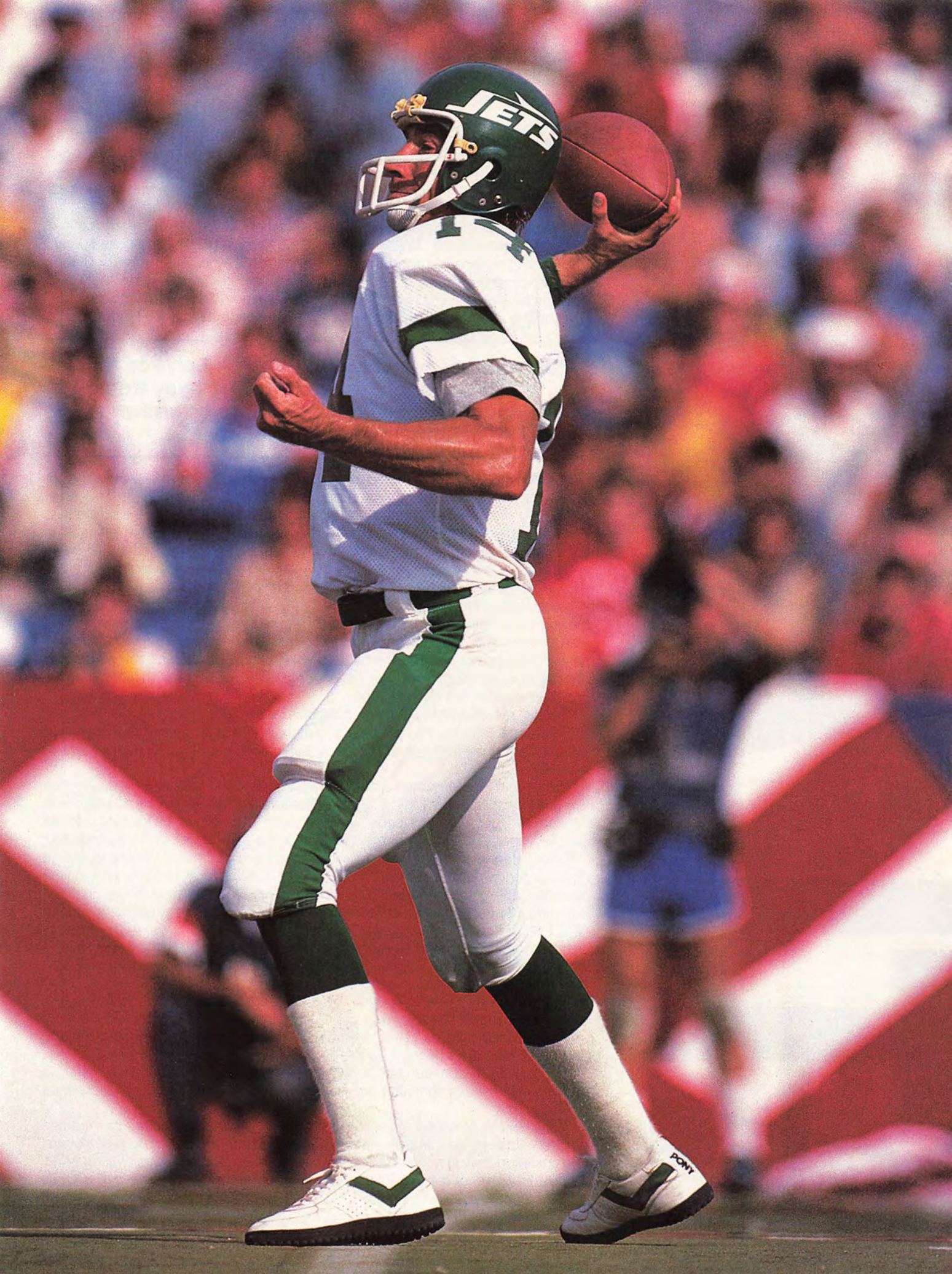
Some experts picked the Jets to win the Super Bowl in 1983. Instead, the team finished 7-9, and Jet fans burned a Todd jersey at one of the home games.

Stabler expresses sympathy for a fellow quarterback. "In Richard's case, much of the criticism was unjustified," he says. "I think he's a terrific quarterback who can make a great contribution to this team. He's not going to have the job handed to him. He's gonna have to win it. If he does, and the team wins, I won't have any problem as a backup."

Phillips doesn't anticipate any major changes, especially in a defense that was, statistically, the best in the NFC, second in the NFL. "We're disappointed we didn't

(continued on page 161)

Traded to the Saints, ex-Jets' quarterback Richard Todd gets set to play in his native South.


JETS
PONY

ATLANTA

First-year Coach Dan Henning of Atlanta began making assessments of the 1984 season when the Falcons dropped out of the playoff picture last season with five games left.

After starting 2-5, they finished 5-4, leading Henning to observe that the best thing about going 7-9 in the NFC West was "our refusal to give up.

"It would be difficult to play quarterback better than Steve Bartkowski, and difficult to play football better than William Andrews," he says. But those two are stars. What left Henning most encouraged was the surprising play of wide receiver Stacey Bailey and, perhaps most of all, the rediscovery of Billy "White Shoes" Johnson. Johnson's comeback made him the team's inspirational leader, proving that someone could go from catching two passes one season to catching 64 the next.

"To produce, you have to play. . . . I proved that. I think every player wants to get away from being one-dimensional. I want to be known as more than a punt returner."

Johnson also set a team record for punt return yardage. He ran back 46 punts for 489 yards. Since 1975, he has returned 225 punts for 2,802, a 12.5-yard average.

Twice in one month, Johnson resuscitated the Falcons. Atlanta trailed the Jets 21-0 with one quarter to play when he turned it on. He had a hand in every point in the stunning Falcon rally that overcame the Jets 27-21. He caught a touchdown pass, set up a touchdown with a 41-yard punt return and returned another 71 yards for a TD. Besides that, he caught passes to set up two field goals.

Later, against the 49ers, Johnson beat them with a 47-yard touchdown catch on the final play of the game. It may have been the most amazing play of the season. It was a desperation play that saw White Shoes slip as he prepared to catch a tipped pass. Just as he bounced up, the ball fell into his hands. He circled back, outrunning one tackler, skipping away from a second, falling through a third. Somehow, Johnson wiggled into the end zone.

"I'm just glad the Lord put me in position," he said afterward.

So are the Falcons. "He gives us a little change, a little variety," Henning says. "You'd make a mistake if you considered him a punt returner only. He's a versatile athlete."

The reward for a storybook season arrived when White Shoes won a spot on the Pro Bowl team, joining William Andrews, offensive tackle Mike Kenn and guard R.C. Thielemann. "It meant a lot to me," says Johnson. "It changed the thinking of those people who really didn't know my talents as a player, who thought I was finished."

Before Henning arrived, Johnson was strictly a return man. At Houston, before knee surgery wiped out two years (1978-79), he was the rage, one year winning the Most Valuable Player trophy in the Pro Bowl. He wound up in Canada in 1981, catching 62 passes for Montreal, then jumped at the chance to get back into the NFL, even if it meant returning punts only.

"To produce, you have to play," Johnson says. "I proved that. I think every player wants to get away from being one-dimensional. I want to be known as more than a punt returner."

As the Falcons' H-back, Johnson is in constant motion. He might run the ball, catch it or simply take someone out of the play as a decoy. "The fact he is so elusive didn't surprise us," says Henning. "But I *was* surprised at how sure-handed and durable he is for being so small."

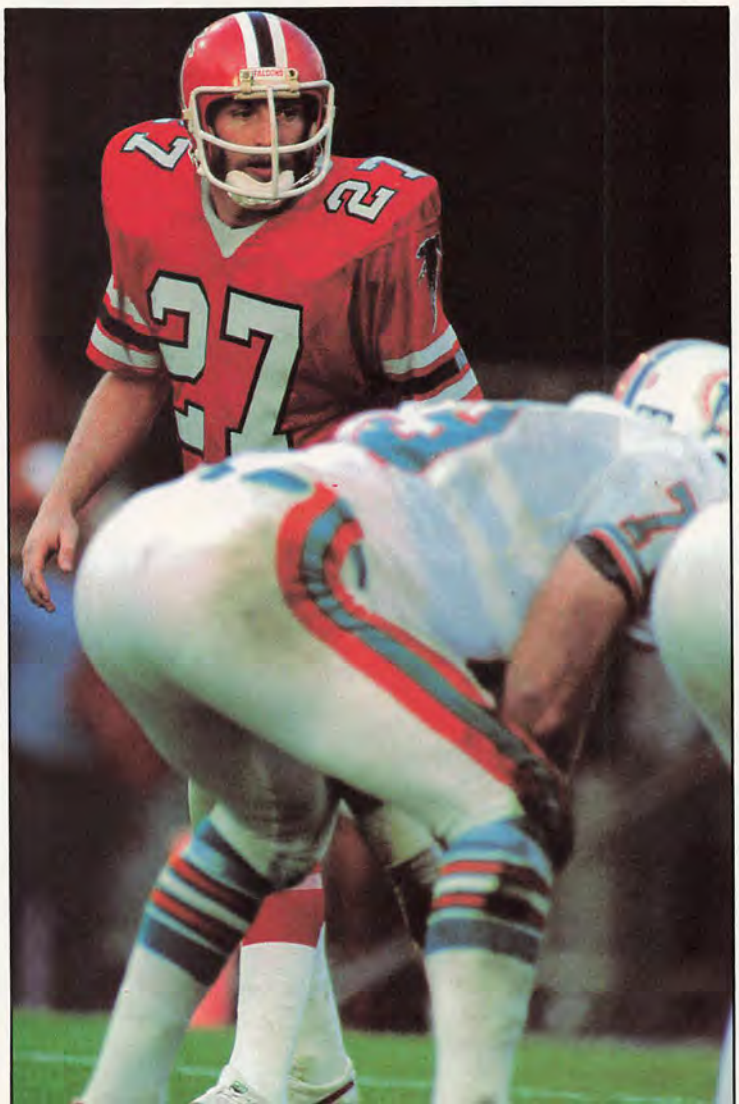
At 5-9 and 170, Johnson has been a standout since high school days. "I started wearing white shoes right after Joe Namath wore 'em," he says. "That's how I got my nickname."

White Shoes provided most of the drama for a club that played four games decided on the game's final play. It was a young team, one with 17 first-year players. Six rookies, including punter Ralph Giacomarro, were starting by the season's end. Two—defensive end Mike Pitts and linebacker John Rade—made the UPI's

(continued)

Comeback Player of the Year? How about Billy "White Shoes" Johnson with 64 catches in '83, only two in '82?

81



Life in the secondary has ups and downs for James Britt (26, above) and Tom Pridemore (27, right).

(Atlanta continued)

All-Rookie team. The first-year men were forced into action largely because veteran starters missed 46 games. Wide receiver Alfred Jackson missed 12 games, defensive tackle Mike Zele 12 and linebacker Al Richardson 11. Jackson was replaced by Bailey, the sleeper of the year.

"We liked what Stacey did in practice," says Henning. "We figured he could play, but he didn't have the opportunity until later."

Bailey made the most of the opportunity. In each of his first three starts, he caught passes for 100 yards or more. No Falcon had ever accomplished that. He finished as the club's leading receiver in yards with 881.

Bailey wasn't the only story. When H-back Bo Robinson was injured and replaced by tight end Junior Miller, that spot was open to two small-college free agents, Ben Young and Arthur Cox. Young got the early nod. By midseason, Cox had taken over.

At quarterback, Bartkowski's brilliant year—he led the league in passing with 274 completions in 432 attempts for 3,167 yards, 22 touchdowns and only five interceptions—had some of the luster removed by the 7-9 finish. Henning feels Bartkowski and Andrews are two of the finest at their positions. Andrews continued to make believers of skeptics, becoming only the third player in history to go over 2,000 combined yards twice in a career. Andrews ranked second in rushing, and his 8,384 combined yards make him the league's most productive back over the last five years.

Andrews is quick to point out that he is running behind the finest line in the league, led by tackle Mike Kenn and guard R.C. Thielemann.

Defensively, the Falcons were again sparked by linebacker Buddy Curry. The five-year vet has led the team in tackles every year since he was drafted in 1980. Curry did it from a new position, outside linebacker, after the Falcons went to a 4-3 alignment with Fulton Kuykendall in the middle.

A pass rush that has had problems in recent years was bolstered by first-round pick Pitts of Alabama. He won a starting spot toward the end of the season and led the team with seven sacks. Still, the Falcons' 31 sacks tied them for last in the league.

The most improved area on defense was the secondary. During the strike-shortened season of '82, the Falcons allowed seven scoring passes of 30 yards or more in nine games. Last season they allowed only two in 16 games. Not only that, they were flagged for only two interference calls.

"We cut down on the big play and the unintelligent play," Henning says. "Any time you can stretch out the field, you have more of a chance to make something happen. The quick scores can kill you."

Kenny Johnson and Bobby Butler are slated to return as starting corners, with James Britt and Tom Pridemore in the middle of the sec-

(continued on page 152)

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DETROIT

After the NFL season last year, the Detroit Lions voted William Gay the team's outstanding defensive player.

The 29-year-old end/tackle from Southern California was chosen to play in the Pro Bowl last January. He is regarded as one of the most aggressive linemen in pro football.

When the Lions need Gay to play right end, he plays right end. When he is needed to play inside, at tackle, he does that. When he is needed to play left end, as he may be this season, he plays there.

"Anything for the team," says Gay. "It doesn't matter to me which position I play. At end you get more chances at the quarterback when he's not looking, but just being a member of the Silver Rush is enough. We've got pride."

The Silver Rush of tackles Gay and Doug English, and ends Mike Cofer and Curtis Green should be very good again as the Lions try to win another NFC Central Division championship.

There are some problems to be resolved—such as who is to be quarterback—but this is a club that came within Ed Murray's two-foot wide 43-yard field goal attempt in the last five seconds of making it to the NFC championship game against Washington. The miss allowed San Francisco to escape with a 24-23 victory.

The Silver Rush of tackles Gay and Doug English, and ends Mike Cofer and Curtis Green should be very good again as the Lions try to win another NFC Central Division championship.

The Lions of 1983 were at one time 5-6. They finished 9-7 with their first championship of any kind since 1957, when Detroit won it all. They allowed 286 points, fewest given up in the NFC. Gay contributed mightily to that statistic.

In August of 1978, the Lions were stuck with an unhappy 10-year safety, Charlie West. Monte Clark, then in his first year as the Lions' coach, found a home for him with the Denver Broncos.

In the trade, Clark accepted a lightly regarded rookie tight end. His name was William Gay. Denver had made him a No. 2 draft pick. "I guess they needed a strong safety more than they needed me," Gay says.

While Gay played little at tight end for the Lions in 1978—he caught no passes—he had been a brilliant tight end for Southern California for two years. He was given the last scholarship then Trojan Coach John McKay had to offer when he agreed to move from linebacker to tight end. Gay had been a linebacker at Herbert Hoover High in San Diego and in junior college.

"I just wanted to play," he says. "I've always been that way. I can adjust."

"At Detroit, when I was asked to move to defense, I said fine," says Gay. "But I had to beef up. I was only 215. I got a strange kind of a break. As a backup lineman in 1979, I broke my leg late in the season. While I was laid up, I ate and ate and ate, and I pumped iron when I could. Pretty soon I was up to 250." He plays now at 6-5 and 255.

Just before last season's start, the Lions traded Al Baker to St. Louis and gave Baker's end position to Gay.

In the season opener of 1983 at Tampa Bay, Gay established his own identity. He recorded 5½ sacks in an 11-0 victory.

"He had some big shoes to fill and he filled them," says English.

"Actually, he's been able to play like that since I've been here," says running back Billy Sims. "He was just overshadowed by Baker. He's All-Pro caliber."

"It's nice to know people think so much of you," says Gay, referring to the recognition by the Lions. "When I accepted the award, I didn't know what to say. I still don't. I couldn't do anything if Doug, Mike and Curtis weren't around. I am proud to be a part of the Rush. The Lions had 47 sacks last year, and only two were by linebackers. Sacking is fun. It's a way we contribute to what happens in the standings."

The Lions are saying what happened in the standings last year—first place—will

(continued on page 129)

As a tackle in the Lions' Silver Rush, William Gay contributes significantly to a tough defense.

(Alzado continued)

Cindy. "But don't. Half of it is bull."

This is important to remember now that the world has discovered Lyle Alzado, movie star. After this football season, his 14th, Alzado will take up Hollywood full-time. Alzado didn't need to come back to the gridiron this season. The Raiders' AFC West title in 1983 was his fifth division championship in seven years (won with three different teams: Denver, Cleveland and the Raiders). The 260-pound defensive end has been to Super Bowls twice in that stretch; last year, he won one. But he's back for one more season because Owner Al Davis "has been good to me."

As for the silver screen, he's already done a few films: *Bases Loaded,* with Ruth Gordon and Bubba Smith, and another, as yet untitled, with Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds. "I'm the good-looking guy in that one," he says.

Alzado says he'll play one more season because of the way Al Davis has treated him.

Alzado is a certified capital-C Celebrity now. Even people who don't know an end zone from an elbow are gaga over Alzado.

Take, for instance, an appearance Alzado made on "The Tonight Show" in April. Guest-host Joan Rivers kept pronouncing his name "Al-zaw-do" and asking him typical jock questions like "What does a big fella like you eat for breakfast?"

Alzawdo knew he had a live one here. "Oh, let's see," he said. "I start out with a quart of milk, then a quart of juice, about a dozen eggs, a package or so of bacon and maybe a dozen links of sausage. Of course, if I'm hungry . . ." The audience broke up. "Really?" Rivers said credulously.

One of the reasons Alzado is on this planet is to entertain, help a few kids along the way and have a laugh or two. And why shouldn't he get a few smiles out of life?

It helps him forget.

Born in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, Alzado had it rough as he was growing up.

"We were so poor I had to kick the cockroaches off the bread to make a sandwich," he once said.

Alzado's father was a huge man, not as tall as Alzado (6-3), but equally ponderous. "His arms were like pipes and his legs were like tree stumps," Alzado remembers. He was the kind of man who lives his life like somebody just knocked his hat off. "I had to fight him once—to protect my mom," he recalls. "It was very physical. He broke my nose. We were both arrested."

Since his home was rarely heated, Alzado spent most of his time on the streets, preferring to freeze in the open air. He would beat the breath out of you for a quarter and then let you keep the quarter. "I had a bit of a police record," Alzado says. "Some cars, broken houses, things like that." In high school, he was feared by everybody, including adults. Most adults, that is.

"You're a big, tough guy. Why don't you come out for football?" the junior varsity coach asked him one day. Alzado told him not only that he didn't want to play football, but where he could stick his football.

The little J.V. coach did not flinch. "Think about it," he said.

Alzado, who happens to like little guys who don't flinch, decided to give him a chance. He eventually became a high school All-American.

Still, not many schools would touch him. He was finally offered and accepted a scholarship at Yankton College in Yankton, South Dakota—enrollment 350. To this day, nobody has come to the NFL from a smaller place. That's a credit to the colossal talents of Alzado, since most scouts didn't know Yankton from plankton until they started hearing stories about him.

Surprisingly, though, the story on Alzado throughout his career has been that he's not very fast, not real quick, and not exceptionally big. Every summer, somebody who has forgotten the previous fall tries to cut him, trade him, release him or just plain forget him.

Drafted in the fourth round by Denver, the Broncos took eight good years from him, then banished him to Cleveland for three draft choices. Somehow, the Broncos had forgotten that Alzado had led their team in sacks two years, was twice an All-Pro, and had led the team to the only Super Bowl appearance in franchise history.

What the Broncos did remember were little incidents. Like Alzado stripping on top of a piano bar in southeast Denver the night the Broncos clinched a trip to the Super Bowl. Or the fact that Alzado didn't take kindly to their meddling in his off-season hobby—boxing.

Alzado fought Ali at Mile High Stadium, and the Broncos' front office said that prizefighting wasn't what they had in mind for an off-season conditioning program. Alzado told them much the same thing he told the J.V. high school football coach.

Alzado wasn't just dabbling in pugilism. As an amateur fighter in the Golden Gloves ranks, he was 44-1 (27 wins in a row), including a split-decision loss to Joe Stander, who would later fight Joe Frazier for the championship of the world. Alzado had lost to Ali and before the 1979 season began, the Broncos had traded him.

After three good years in Cleveland, the Browns shipped him off for a fraction of a pittance—an eighth-round choice. The Browns, too, had let it slip in their minds that he was an All-Pro in 1980 and helped them win the AFC Central title that same year. The Browns allegedly told Raiders' Owner Davis that Alzado's legs were gone and that he wasn't hitting on all synapses.

If that's what the Browns really thought, they missed the whole point. Alzado has never pleaded sanity. "I've always camped out on the edge of reality," he says. "Is your mind clear? Well, mine isn't either. Mine is never clear. But I like it that way. Sane people are obnoxious."

So Cleveland shipped him off to Los Angeles for a most excellent ending.

He has blossomed in L.A. And in Hollywood, that means national fame. He has not only been able to switch effortlessly from football madman to movie hero, but has expanded his efforts at helping kids, too. An impassioned speech by Alzado helped pass legislation against child abuse in California last year.

"This is my home now," Alzado says. "I'm happy here."

Funny. It took moving to a town 3,000 miles from Brooklyn for Alzado to discover the world is not such a bad egg.

And vice versa.

END

Kooch Lives in a $4 Million Mansion

The Baron of Biscayne Bay

by Bob Rubin

Beauty and the beast coexist intriguingly within Miami Dolphin guard Bob Kuechenberg, a man who wears silk shirts and French cuffs and once played with a broken back.

On a football field, he's a monster. "If there was ever a throwback to the old style, it's Kooch," says Dolphin Coach Don Shula. "He loves the mud and the dirt and the blood. When you think about Kooch, you think about toughness. You think about a tremendous desire to win. You think about a winning attitude, the kind you have to preach all the time, and here's a living example of it.

"It's got to be impressive to young people to look at a guy who has been around that long, who has been through everything he has been through, and who is still around."

Kuechenberg is a football dinosaur. He'll be 37 this fall and entering his 15th season in a sport in which the average life span is five. Though his beard is white and his hair sparse and he's knocking heads with opponents who were in second grade when he broke in, he's still good enough to have made the Pro Bowl as an alternate last year.

The last survivor of the Dolphins' glory days as back-to-back Super Bowl champions, he holds club records in games started (194) and games played (208). He has scars on his face and hands from many individual battles in the pit, but he can still do the job. He says that as long as he feels he can perform up to his standards and the Dolphins remain in contention for the Super Bowl, he'll continue to play.

There may be no tougher man in the NFL. When Kuechenberg suffered that broken back in 1977 (two fractures of the transverse process), he simply strapped on a brace and lined up. In 1973, he fractured his left forearm, was out a mere two weeks, then came back to neutralize Viking All-Pro tackle Alan Page in the Super Bowl.

He had a severely sprained arch in his right foot going into that unforgettable 41-38 overtime playoff loss to San Diego in 1981. Six times he had to come out and get it worked on, but six times he went back in. Immediately after the game, his foot was put in a cast for six weeks.

One more. In the strike-shortened '82 season, he played all nine regular-season games and four in the playoffs with a stress fracture in his foot and a neck injury that kept him in constant pain.

"I take pride in being a tough guy," says Kuechenberg. He comes by it naturally as the son of a man who was, at various times, a boxer, a bullfighter, a Brahma bull rider (backwards), a rodeo clown, a human cannonball in the circus, an ironworker and "the toughest man I've ever known," according to Kuechenberg.

"I have never been the biggest, strongest or fastest," says this granite chip off Rudy Kuechenberg's block. "You may beat me, but you'll have to kill me to do it. So buckle up."

That toughness is mental as well as physical. Kuechenberg was cut by two NFL teams and found himself playing sandlot ball with an outfit called the Chicago Owls for $100 a game before he finally caught on with the Dolphins as a free agent in 1970. He simply would not give up. Like he said, you'll have to kill him to beat him.

Sounds like your classic Neanderthal, but off the field Kuechenberg slides smoothly into his other identity. He dons his fancy threads ("just because you're a football player doesn't mean you have to dress like a bum"), drives his Mercedes and handles a fine wine list as knowledgeably as he handles a defensive tackle.

An economics major at Notre Dame who paid attention in class, he is a highly successful businessman. He owns a company that buys and sells oil paintings, holds real estate licenses in Florida and California, and is sports marketing director for Pan American Airways. There will be no benefits needed for ol' Kooch when he decides to hang them up. Unlike many athletes who think their playing days will last forever, he has prepared for his next life.

"Problems come in going from being a superstar to just a common, everyday person," Kuechenberg says. "Take a guy who plays football for 15 years. That puts him 15 years behind his college roommate when it's time to get into the business world. So he learns football and he finds himself a 35-year-old rookie in the business world.

"Who wants to train a 35-year-old man? And what an adjustment. He's used to making big money, and now his salary is a fraction of what it was. The NFL is a make-believe world. I look to be free when I quit playing football. That's why I made sure I have something to go to."

Kuechenberg has many things to go to, but the one non-football enterprise for which he is best known in South Florida is his remarkable business partnership with his beautiful wife, Marilyn. She's a former actress, model and set designer, who, in her own way, is as tough, tenacious and resourceful as her husband.

Together, they have restored 10 old homes in

(continued on page 135)

Guard Bob Kuechenberg played on the Dolphins' two successive Super Bowl champions.

GREEN BAY

Paul Coffman has spent much of his adult life trying to prove that he is a quality football player.

Those days appear to be over. The new coach at Green Bay says he knows well enough who his tight end will be.

Coffman caught 11 touchdown passes last year, six short of the NFL record and high on a team with four players who had more than 50 receptions. Only three in the NFL caught more than 11 touchdown passes in 1983.

"That's an eye-catching statistic," says Forrest Gregg, Green Bay's new coach and former Packer great. "Coffman is my kind of player—intense always. You don't have to be a defensive player to be intense. Coffman does what I want from everyone. He plays every play as if it were his last."

As a walk-on, Coffman made it both at Kansas State and Green Bay. This is the tight end who caught zero passes as a Packer rookie in 1978 but 56 in his second season. He is now the top pass-catching tight end in Green Bay history with 230 catches.

Coffman grew up in Chase, Kan. (population 800). His parents were educators who made sure that he got a college degree. His father and grandfather graduated at Kansas State and saw to it that he attended their alma mater, too.

This is the tight end who caught zero passes as a Packer rookie in 1978 but 56 in his second season. He is now the top pass-catching tight end in Green Bay history.

Vince Gibson, then Kansas State coach, invited Coffman to try out for the team. At the time, Lynn Dickey was the senior quarterback. Dickey is now with the Packers and throws to Coffman, James Lofton, John Jefferson and others.

"I started in college as a running back, moved to linebacker, then tight end," says Coffman. "Mostly, I held dummies. I made the team the second year, though, and played tight end. I played half the time because we ran the plays in from that position. As a senior in 1977 I made the All-Big Eight second team behind Kellen Winslow (San Diego Chargers), but none of the pro scouts ever talked to me. I was 6-3 and 212. But I got a break."

The break was having a roommate named Gary Spani, All-Big Eight linebacker popular with pro scouts.

"Every time a scout would come to check Gary," says Coffman, "I would do my best to talk him into giving me a tryout. When John Meyer (former Packer assistant) was to look at Gary, I had no class, so I showed up, too. It was a cold day and raining, so we went to the field house and worked out on the basketball court. Coach Meyer said he would say something to the receivers coach, Lew Carpenter, about me when he returned to Green Bay."

Spani was a third-round draft pick of Kansas City in 1978. Coffman was neither drafted nor contacted afterward with a request that he try out.

Later, in Green Bay, preparations were being made for a mini-camp, and Carpenter asked the coaches if anyone knew of a tight end who might be brought in to rest the regulars. Meyer remembered Coffman.

"They had seven tight ends there," Coffman recalls. "I was No. 7. They posted the names in order of depth, then told you that really didn't mean anything, but you knew it did.

"I was invited back for regular camp. By that time, two tight ends were gone. I worked hard every minute. I studied hard. Anytime anybody called for a tight end, I jumped in. I knew the plays. When one of the rookies or free agents who didn't know an assignment when a play was called would ask me, I would either tell them wrong or that I didn't know. I didn't make many friends but I got the job."

Coffman made the club amidst headlines in Green Bay suggesting that the Packers would be trading for a tight end. Bart Starr was in his fourth year as coach of the Packers. Coffman started 16 games, but the tight-end passes were caught by

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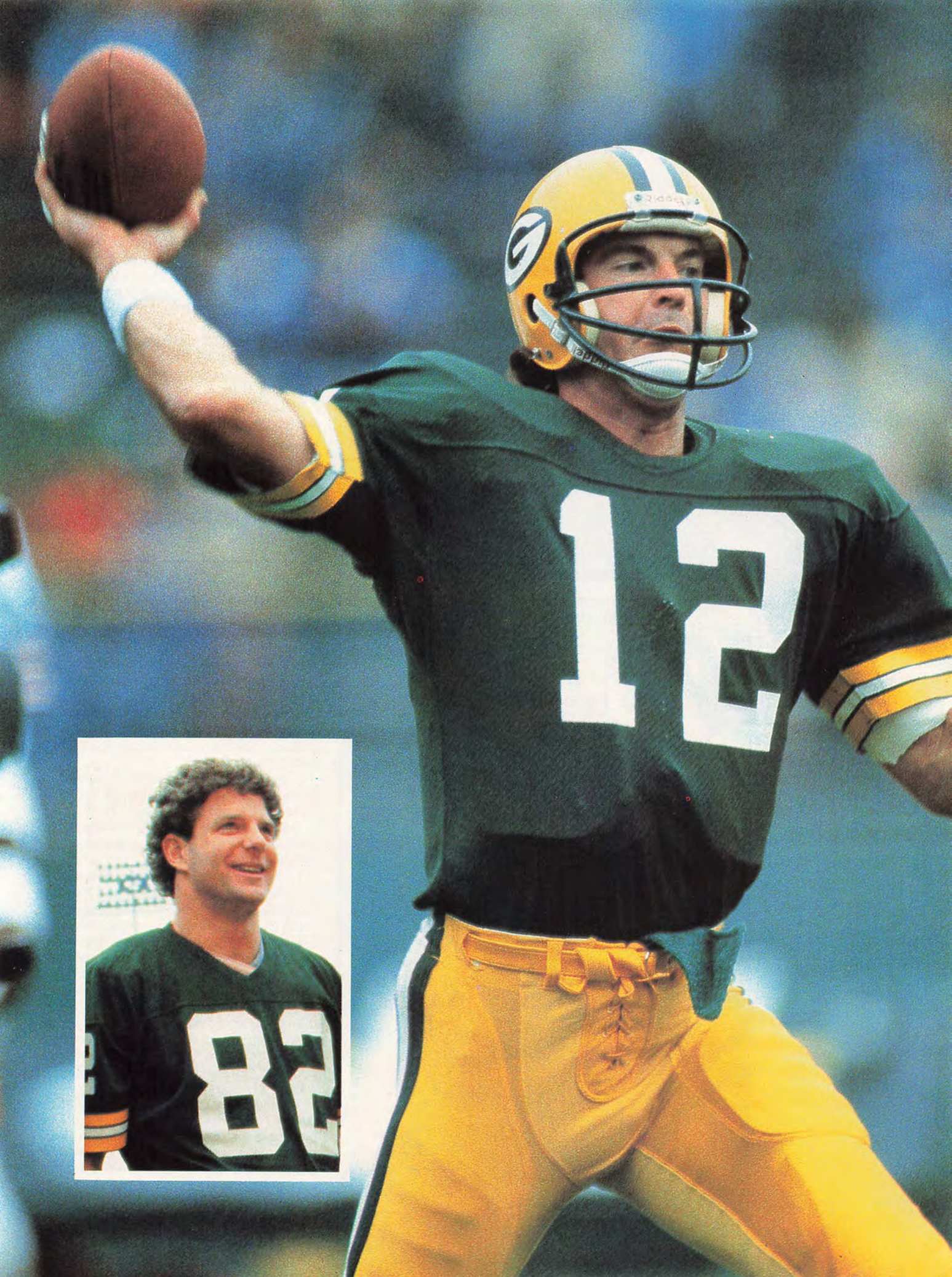
An alumni battery from Kansas State is clicking with the Packers: Lynn Dickey and Paul Coffman (inset).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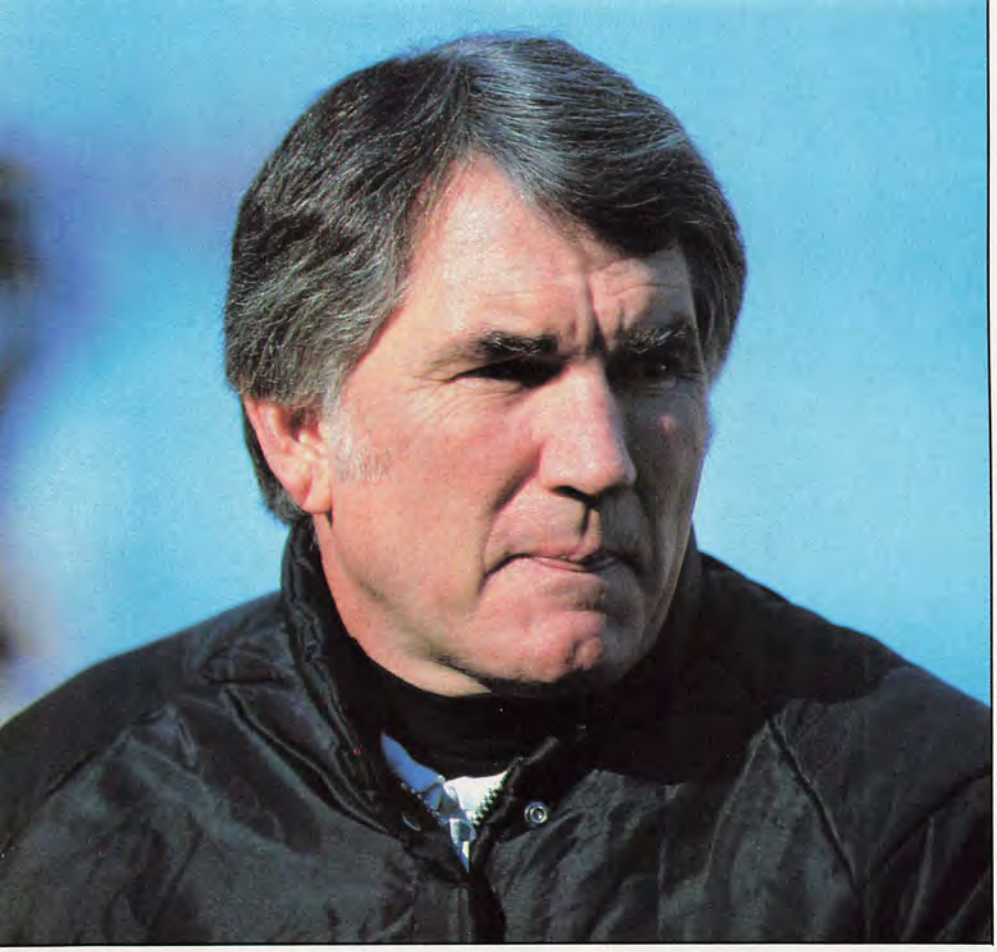
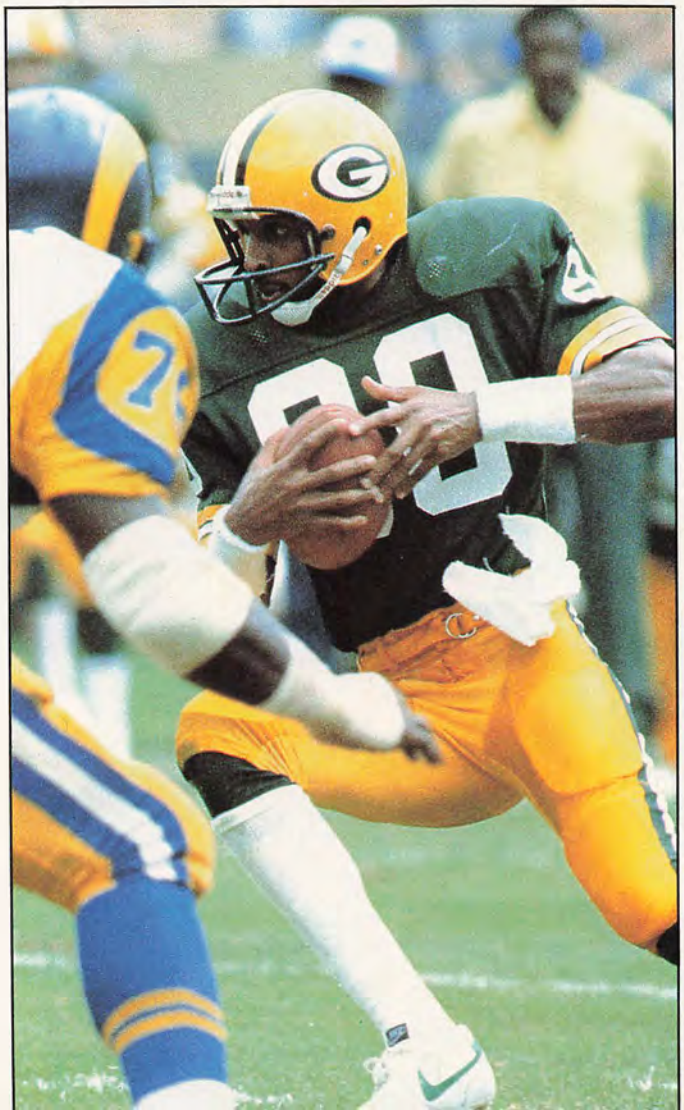


Former Packer great Forrest Gregg (above) seems grim on his return as coach, but All-Pro wide receiver James Lofton (right) should lighten his mood.



(Green Bay continued)

veteran Rich McGeorge. The next year McGeorge was gone, and Coffman became the No. 1 tight end. The passes were thrown to him.

In the next season, with his weight up to 225 pounds and his speed in the 40 cut to 4.7, Coffman caught 42, then 55, then 23 (the strike year), then 54 last year.

Gregg, who aspires to return the Packers to the glory of his playing years, was described by his Green Bay coach, the late Vince Lombardi, as "the finest player I ever had." Gregg played 14 years in the Packer offensive line, was a leader of the Lombardi Era, and was a member of five NFL championship teams.

Between 1980-83, Gregg was head coach of the Cincinnati Bengals, who lost to the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XVI.

"When I got into coaching, I said this is the one job I wanted," says Gregg.

"They sit on top of you at the stadium; they see you at every stoplight; they know the curfews."

If there is to be a happy ending, Gregg needs to shore up his defense. To help him do that, he brought with him three defensive coaches from Cincinnati, including defensive coordinator Hank Bullough. The others are line coach Dick Modzelewski and secondary coach Ken Riley, who retired as a Bengal player after the 1983 season. George Sefcik, offensive backfield coach, also accompanied Gregg to Green Bay. Retained from Starr's staff were offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker and Carpenter.

"I don't think the defense here was as bad as it was made out to be, though we have some work to do," says Gregg.

The offense features Dickey, running backs Gerry Ellis and Eddie Lee Ivery, and an excellent cast of receivers.

Dickey passed for 32 touchdowns last season to lead the NFL. But he also had 29 interceptions. He completed 289 of 484 throws for 4,458 yards. His total yardage also was tops.

Ellis excelled both as a runner and receiver. He ran 141 times for 696 yards (4.9 average) and caught 52 passes for 603 yards.

"People in Green Bay know every detail of what's going on," says Coffman. "They sit on top of you at the stadium; they see you at every stoplight; they know the curfews; and if you are out late, somebody will call the coaches. You better do right if you want to be a Packer in Green Bay."

"In other NFL cities, football is a sport," says Gregg. "In Green Bay, it is a passion. The boulevard that goes past the stadium was named for Vince Lombardi. I just hope one day they don't have a reason to name a street for me—one that leads out of town."

END

A STRAIGHT TALK WITH THE COMMISSIONER

USFL™

Gaining In Strength

CHET SIMMONS
USFL Commissioner

Professional football in the spring and summer is two years old now. The United States Football League is under the direction of a man who is no stranger to the challenges of building new sports enterprises. In the late 1950s, Commissioner Chet Simmons helped to transform a small production company—Sports Programs, Inc.—into what is now ABC Sports. Simmons guided and helped develop the American Football League's first TV package.

As a major sports executive for NBC from 1964-79, including the presidency of NBC Sports from 1977-79, Simmons developed Sportsworld and was involved in securing the 1980 Summer Olympics for the network.

To round out a quarter-century in television, he accepted the challenge of president and chief executive officer of ESPN. Under his guidance (1979-82), it became the largest advertiser-supported cable network.

On June 14, 1982, Simmons was named USFL commissioner. The league the purists said couldn't last signed such college stars as Herschel Walker and Mike Rozier, the last two Heisman Trophy winners; Steve Young, Marcus Dupree, Kelvin Bryant, Trumaine Johnson, Irv Eatman, Tim Spencer, Reggie White, Mark Adickes, Jim Kelly, Buford Jordan, Gordon Hudson, Anthony Carter, Rick Neuheisel and Robert Smith. And the USFL has dipped into the NFL for established stars like Brian Sipe, Doug Williams, Joe Cribbs, Dan Ross and Gary Barbaro.

A New York City native and a graduate of the University of Alabama, Simmons gave

(continued)

Lured by lucrative contracts, National Football League stars, including Joe Cribbs of the Birmingham Stallions, have left to join USFL teams.

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BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY.

After winning the Heisman Trophy as a junior, Herschel Walker signed with the New Jersey Generals.

(Simmons interview continued)

this State-of-the-USFL interview to Athlon's *Herschel Nissenson.*

ATHLON: Is the USFL stronger than a year ago?

SIMMONS: Absolutely! No question. We were much better prepared to play football. I think that the pressure was on us more this year than it was a year ago. Last year we were looked at as the new guy on the block. There was hype, curiosity, the Herschel Walker signing . . . a whole lot of pressure. But this year we had to prove our ability to play. Our original 12 teams are better. We turned over a lot of personnel, which indicated that we had a good draft, both the territorial and the open draft. From those points of view, we are much better off. The six new teams learned a lot from the original 12.

ATHLON: Is this year more important than last year?

SIMMONS: Much more important. It's a very important year for us for a couple of reasons. We're doing it on our own. We don't have all that false first-year hype. We have a couple of TV contracts (ABC, ESPN) that come due. From those two very critical points, it's important. And now we're being looked at objectively—can we do it, can we continue to make spring and summer professional football work?

ATHLON: What major obstacles do you still have to surmount?

SIMMONS: Changing the public's habit, the thinking about football being played in the spring and summer. That continues to be an overriding obstacle. We have to continue to overcome both the cynical and the critical view in a good deal of the media—more the cynic than the critic. A critic is more objective than a cynic. We still have a lot of cynics to deal with. I was quoted last year very liberally about my view of the media, and they came down on me, saying: "What do you expect the media to do, sell your league and sell tickets for you?" No, all I ask is: Be objective about what we're trying to do. I don't know why the media wouldn't want a new entity to have the opportunity for success if it's earned. It means more business, more work, more opportunities to sell newspapers and to have people listen to you on radio.

ATHLON: What about the court ruling that your refusal to sign underclassmen violated the anti-trust laws?

SIMMONS: We knew it was going to happen. We knew it would happen in the (Herschel) Walker situation (in 1983) if we pursued that in court. At that time, we asked for outside opinions. All of them told us it would be fruitless to defend against Walker. In the (Bob) Boris case, it was more a demand by the college coaches that we continue to enforce our eligibility rules, and we did. The guy came and challenged us and we defended our position. It cost us a lot of money, it cost us a lot of time and effort and we knew what the decision would be. Legal fees were probably well in excess of $100,000, and we still have a damage claim from Boris that we're facing (in September).

ATHLON: The USFL has Walker and Dupree, but would you rather no one had filed a suit?

SIMMONS: You'd rather not, but you know it's going to happen. It was almost inevitable. You're dealing with practical, legal and human issues. Practically, it probably would have been best if nothing happened. Legally, we knew that we couldn't continue to avoid it. Humanly, you're dealing with the Duprees of the world who are sitting there with no school, no money, no nothing. I don't know how many (underclassmen) will come out as a result of this. It didn't kill basketball (drafting underclassmen). We're probably going to set up an application procedure that will then go into a review procedure, if we can get coaches

(continued)

Cliff Stoudt of the Stallions is a key acquisition from the NFL (Pittsburgh).

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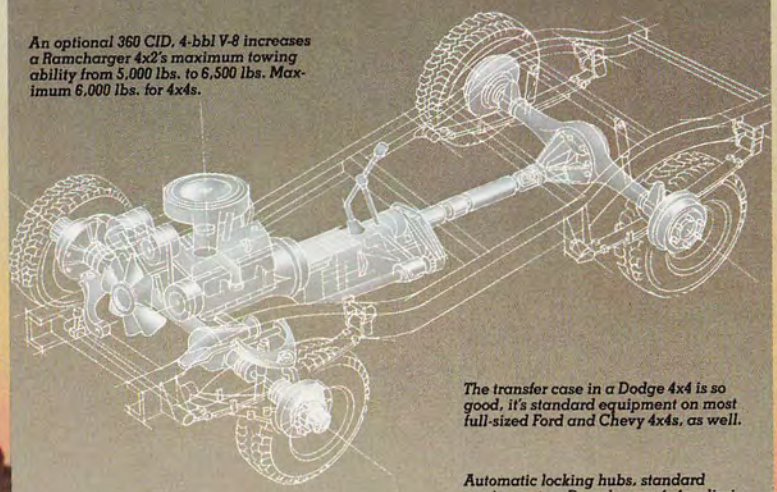

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(Simmons interview continued)

and the colleges to work with us.

ATHLON: Is there any consideration somewhere down the road of being anything other than a spring-summer league?

SIMMONS: There is some research being done on it. If I didn't think that the good businessmen I work for and work with should look at all of our opportunities, I wouldn't be doing justice to the position I have. So we've got it in a committee. We're probably going to be dealing with a consulting firm that will take a look at all the ramifications—where we're playing, can we play in the fall, should we stay here, should we play at night, is there advertising available in the fall, are the networks available—and come back to the ownership and say, "Here are your possibilities."

ATHLON: What about the fantastic contracts given Steve Young, Herschel Walker, Mike Rozier and Marcus Dupree?

SIMMONS: I'll comment on what's been written only because it's being put out of perspective. The kids have become secondary to the amounts of money that have been reported. My people say that the real money we're dealing with has no relationship to the total that's been written about. In the Young case, the $40 million (over a 43-year period) may be real money of $5 million and the rest in annuities and long-term payouts to the year 2027. It's unfortunate that the focus has been on the amounts and not on the fact that we have been successful in signing a very, very good player like Steve Young or Mike Rozier, or re-signing Herschel Walker. And maybe it was done because of creative financial packages. That's the real situation. This league is bent on continuing selective signings. It would be economic suicide for us to go dollar for dollar for every player in the NFL or their draft.

ATHLON: Art Modell (owner of the Cleveland Browns) was quoted as calling the Young and Walker contracts "hari-kari and murder at the same time."

SIMMONS: Well, we're in such a competitive atmosphere right now with the NFL that statements have been made that perhaps are an offshoot of the competitiveness. I don't think that they (the contracts) are murder and hari-kari. From our point of view, they're very important signings. They lend to the substance and credibility of the league, they improved the two teams that these players are with, they give us very marketable commodities. The owners involved can handle it very well.

Craig Penrose struck Denver Gold after brief appearances in five previous years as a pro.

ATHLON: Regardless of whether the contracts are cash dollars right now or annuities somewhere down the road, are numbers like that going to end somewhere?

SIMMONS: They're going to have to because from our point of view the one thing we have to do is spend our money wisely. That's the very key for us. We have probably affected the NFL more than we have affected ourselves. The NFL has to go much deeper into their rosters to satisfy players. Giving Mark Gastineau (New York Jets) $900,000 a year is a residual effect of what's going on in this war between the two leagues. What could be disastrous is if between the two of us we manage to seriously hurt the sport. I don't know how to solve it, but I do know that I see a conceptual problem out there with the amounts of money we're paying. Our solution might be through collective bargaining and a salary cap the same way the NBA did.

ATHLON: Is "war" the proper word to describe the situation between the USFL and NFL?

SIMMONS: Well, there's one heckuva fight for players, one heckuva battle for players on a selected basis. I think that Don Trump could have signed Gastineau if he had gotten permission (from the Oklahoma Outlaws, who own Gastineau's USFL rights). He just felt: Why start battling on every level? But there was a place to stop. If you wanted to do it on all levels, then you'd have a war that I don't think anybody would win.

ATHLON: You've got one owner on the East Coast (New Jersey's Donald Trump) and one on the West Coast (J. William Oldenburg of Los Angeles), and it seems like they want to outdo each other.

SIMMONS: That's what it looks like it's come to, but one of the problems is that I guess some of it is on my shoulders and on the league's perception of what we need in New York and Los Angeles, being two key markets. God love Walter (J. Walter Duncan, Trump's predecessor last year as owner of the Generals), who was one of the nice human beings of the world, but Chuck (Fairbanks) was myopic to coaching the team and not wondering about what perceptions we're dealing with in this city (New York). Walter was 1,800 miles away in Oklahoma, and we had a team that literally was a nonentity. We had a team that, number one, nobody knew about; they were not competitive, they were not exciting. All they had was Herschel, and Herschel could not do it by himself. The television ratings reflected the lack of success by the Generals. And in 1984 the television ratings have reflected what has happened as a result of Trump getting in. We've been double digits

(continued)

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in New York City on the overnight ratings since week one. L.A.'s a totally different market than New York. Trump'll put 50,000-60,000 people here eventually; can Oldenburg do that out there? The (NFL's Los Angeles) Raiders don't (draw that many) until they get to the playoffs.

ATHLON: Is consideration being given to further expansion?

SIMMONS: Yes, but on a much, much, much slower basis, and by slower I mean number of teams. Next year we would probably look at two more markets, probably major metropolitan areas. New York City is a perfect place for us. We've got a city here without a pro team, we've got a stadium (Shea). The Generals would have to approve, but I doubt if Donald would stand in the way. We'd love to go back to Boston; it's the sixth-largest market in the country; we need New England. There's Dallas, Miami, Seattle, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, San Diego, and we like Hawaii. Those are the 10 markets we're interested in. I have great personal interest in any city that has a domed stadium. The three cities that have domed stadiums should be very attractive to us—Indianapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Seattle. Those are personal favorites of mine. They would give us good football areas and domed stadiums, which would give us good flexibility in scheduling. Sunday morning I don't have to wake up and call the weather service and find out is it snowing or raining or is it 90 degrees.

ATHLON: How important was it to have signed the last two Heisman winners?

SIMMONS: Very important. Herschel still is looked on as being a different kind of a Joe Namath of the USFL. His re-signing probably was critically as important—if not more important—as (signing) Young and Rozier. If Herschel Walker had come for three years and then adios, it would have been looked upon as a stopgap—we would let him in, they wouldn't let him in, he stays here for three years and takes a walk.

ATHLON: Do you expect to continue to attract players of that caliber?

SIMMONS: What will continue to entice players to come into the league is an opportunity for a lot of kids to become immediate starters. The quarterbacks (and the running backs) look at it that way. Everybody looks at it from the point of view that if I can get into something at the beginning, I can start, I can play right away. If I'm a quarterback, I don't have to carry a clipboard for three or four years. He's probably going to make more money on a percentage basis because I think we're going to have to continue for several years to pay a premium to the player to come to our league. I think that's only realistic. So we'll be able to get our fair share of the big-name ballplayers.

ATHLON: You've been quoted as saying that you believe for the first time in recent history that football stands to be marketable and that the NFL will find that out in the near future.

SIMMONS: I think for the first time that football has to be market-ed, not market-able. You have to go out and really market the product. We have seen all too long where you print your schedule, open your gates and they come through. That's what pro football has had for a long time. Now we're beginning to see a lack of sell-outs, we're seeing declining attendances and what we need now—and we have done it from day one, we have gone out and marketed, we have had to sell, we've been creative, innovative—I think we have to borrow a little bit from things like major league baseball with promotions. We've got to get the people to sample our product both on television and in the stadium. But we've got to bring them in first. Once we get them in, then we've got to keep them. We have to work hard to maintain a high level of exposure and attract the fans. The NFL's going to have to do some of that, too, no question.

ATHLON: Lee Iacocca has done a TV commercial for the USFL's Statue of Liberty Project. What other projects are there?

SIMMONS: The Iacocca commercial is our United Way. In our relationship with Dodge, we were looking for a "charity," which I think is good. It humanizes the relationship between the league and the public—that we have an interest. There are so many of the debilitating diseases, how do you just select cerebral palsy over multiple sclerosis? It's tough to do. We all want to put money into that pot when Jerry Lewis has his telethon. But we felt that we should take a more neutral look at the charity we had, and the refurbishment of the Statue of Liberty is something everybody can relate to if they've got any patriotism at all. We donate a penny per ticket sold from all of our games, which can add up to a lot of money. That's not a promotion; it's our involvement with something that we hope the public gets involved in. We've had big promotions. . . . We did a cooperative advertising supplement with Dodge that ran in *Time* and *Sports Illustrated,* and we also cooperated with one that ran in *The Sporting News* and our own *Kickoff* magazine. We give a Dodge Charger away at our games.

Bob Nelson (65) of the Oklahoma Outlaws draws attention since he had six sacks last year.

ATHLON: Would you be surprised if the same fate befell the USFL as the old All-America Conference, which lasted only four years and gave only two teams to the NFL?

SIMMONS: Yes, I *would* be surprised. I think if we get to four years, we're here forever.

END

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BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY.

Theismann's Ambitions Made of Heady Stuff

by Dave Kindred

Joe Theismann says he sleeps five hours a night. He reveals this information with a rueful shrug, as a grown man might confess to a weakness for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Sleep is necessary, Theismann allows, *but so much of it?* With those five more hours a day to work, he could . . . he would . . . yes, he would win a few more Super Bowl rings with the Washington Redskins, run his bank account into eight figures and get his broken-nose mug up there on the silver screen with his pals, Burt and Sly.

"Burt and Sly have been very supportive, especially Burt, about my acting," Theismann says, knowing that we will know (sure, we know) he is speaking of Burt Reynolds and Sylvester Stallone. "In my workouts now, I'm going for that Stallone V-body look."

Theismann says someone in Hollywood saw "the young Spencer Tracy" in his face, a judgment the quarterback accepts as a good start, looking toward a day he already has imagined.

"A premiere," he says.

Theismann grew dreamy.

"A stretch limo," he says.

He could get to like this.

"A new silk scarf."

What we ought to do, dear reader, is smile in wonder at the name-dropping ease with which Joe Theismann paints an ambition that only an egomaniac would say out loud to a man taking notes for a magazine story. That's the first thing we should do.

Second, we should run, not walk, to buy two tickets to that premiere—because after a decade of yakkity-yakking remarkable even in a city that is the nation's designated repository of hot air, Theismann at last is making his dreams real.

"My mouth has always preceded my performance," says Theismann, who has stood accused, though never convicted, of listening to what he says in order to find out what he is thinking. We're talking here about a fellow who wrote a how-to-play-quarterback book before he played a down in the National Football League. He had his name in brass on a restaurant before he started an NFL game. When he came to the Redskins in 1974—coming to a city that is more style than substance—Theismann bought two tuxedoes, a winter model and a summer model.

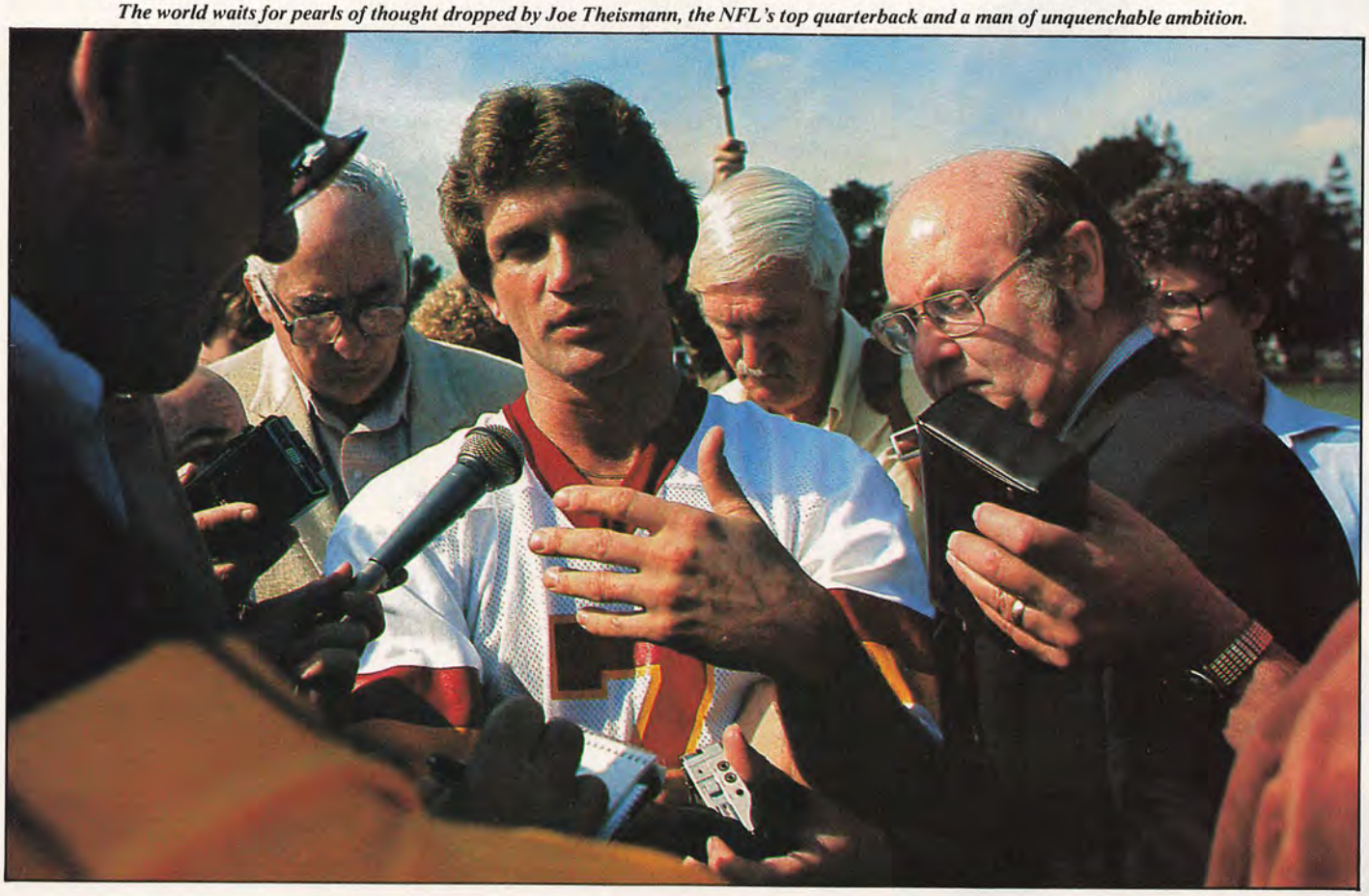
He says, "I wasn't being invited anywhere, but I was hoping."

Theismann's life and times in Washington are convincing proof of Chekhov's line: "Man is what he believes."

Before the Redskins went off to last season's Super Bowl, Theismann was a tuxedoed guest at the White House state dinner for the Premier of China. *Gentlemen's Quarterly* was so taken by the Theismann chic—tweeds and silks and

(continued on page 137)

The world waits for pearls of thought dropped by Joe Theismann, the NFL's top quarterback and a man of unquenchable ambition.



CHICAGO

The heat's always been on Matt Suhey.

His grandfather, Bob Higgins, was a Penn State All-America end in 1919 who went on to play pro football for the Canton Bulldogs, then coached the Nittany Lions for 19 years.

Matt's father, Steve Suhey, was an All-America guard at Penn State in 1947 and played with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1949. Two older brothers, Larry and Paul, also played for State. Paul was the 1978 captain.

Matt Suhey was reared in State College, Pa., two miles from the stadium of the Nittany Lions.

He forsook a desire to play for Woody Hayes at Ohio State to stay at home and go to Penn State. He played well enough to be drafted by the Chicago Bears and found himself in the same backfield with the great Walter Payton.

"The two-back formation we use has made the big fullback obsolete. . . . You need a fullback now who can catch the ball, run with it and block, too."

He's got a name the Arkansas sports publicist would love to have on his Razorback roster. Those displeased with his play sometimes shout oink at him.

He is the 5-10½, 215-pound fullback on a pro team for which the legendary Bronko Nagurski and Rick Casares played the same position.

But Suhey has persisted despite pressures. He was a star in his own right at Penn State, but now he is the "other back" with the Bears.

"The two-back formation we use has made the big fullback obsolete," he says. "You need a fullback now who can catch the ball, run with it and block, too. You see it with us, with Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Green Bay, Detroit and Tampa Bay. I caught 49 passes last year." That made him the Bears' second-leading receiver behind Payton, who had 53.

"I'm not big, but I can hold my own in a race," says Suhey. "I know the game and my position, and I know my role. When you are in a backfield with Walter Payton, you have a special role, and it is one I enjoy. I have two goals: to do my job and to do it well enough for us to get to, and win, the Super Bowl. Nothing else. Personal statistics mean nothing. To win is everything and that takes a team."

Suhey's philosophy explains how he handled the pressure of playing alongside one of pro football's most celebrated and gifted and—to hear Suhey—"selfless" performers.

"Walter—he would be correctly called Sir Walter so far as I'm concerned—has not lost a step," says Suhey. "Playing in the same backfield with him involves no negatives whatsoever, unless you have a desire to carry the ball a lot, and I don't. He is without a doubt the greatest competitor I've been around, and I've played with good ones in my time.

"He keeps his poise and is astonishingly tough under pressure. He is a good blocker, something people don't think about. He runs great routes. He hits the hole so quickly—and at the right time—out of the *I*. Trap plays were made for him. He is able to give a play a chance to develop rather than simply going wide around end. Walter Payton has never played a poor game."

Suhey quickly caught the attention of Mike Ditka, starting his third year as coach and coming off a 1983 finish that has Bear hopes high. After a 3-7 start a year ago, the Bears finished 5-1 for an 8-8 season, the club's best record since 1979. They even had a shot at the playoffs until the next-to-last weekend.

The Bears have discovered that Jim McMahon is their quarterback and Suhey is their "other back." They also discovered that speedster Willie Gault was what they expected at wide receiver (20.9 yards per catch and eight touchdowns), and they found a sleeper in graceful Dennis McKinnon from Florida State.

Perhaps more than anything else, the Bears of 1983 discovered the aggressive spirit of Bear teams of the past.

"I knew we had to establish an identity of being a tough, hard-nosed football

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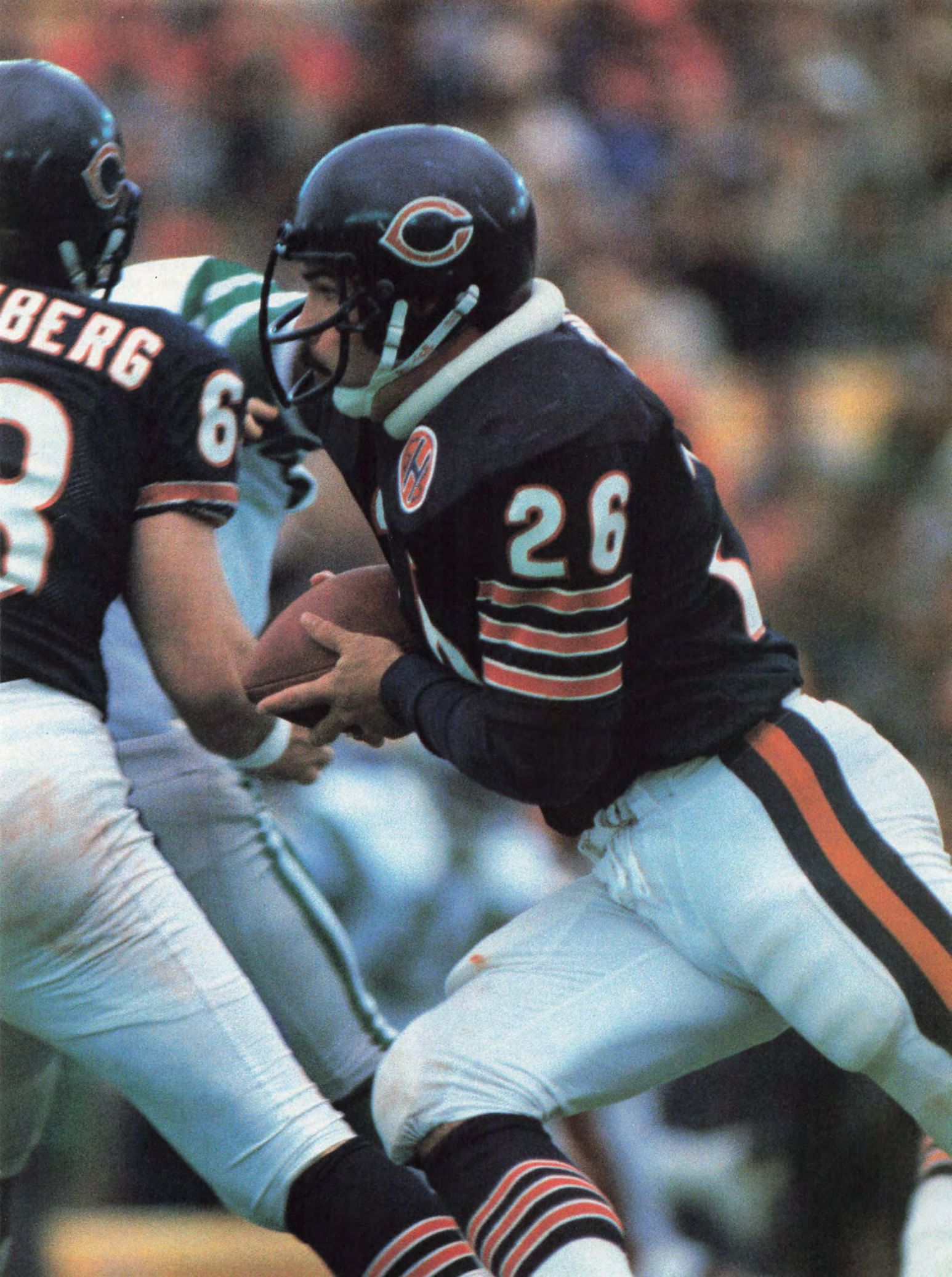
The "other back" on the Bears is Matt Suhey, who doesn't mind not carrying the ball a lot.


BERG
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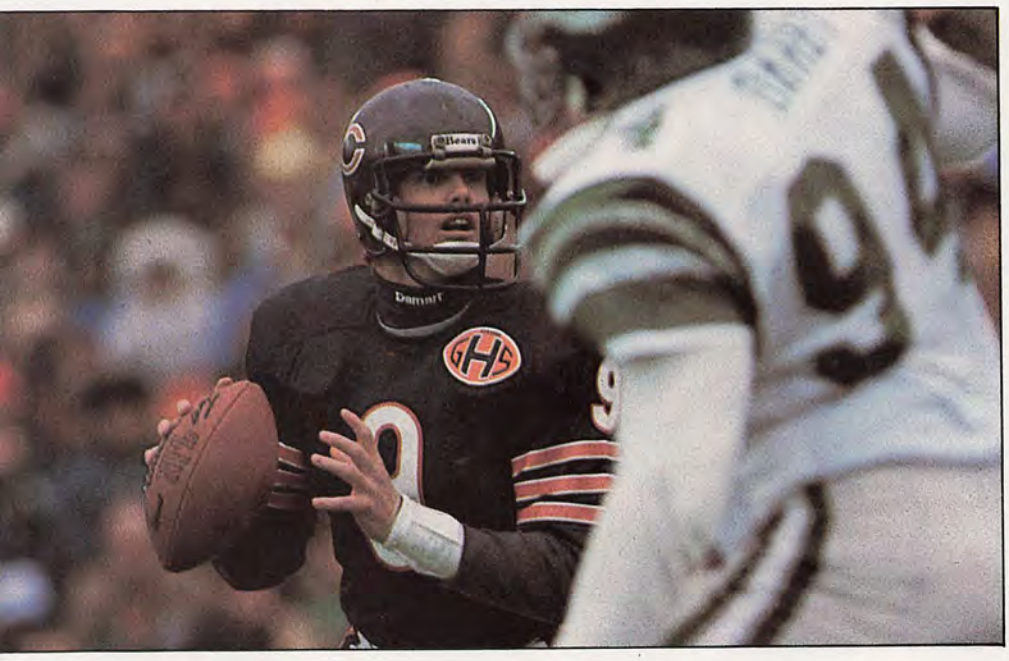
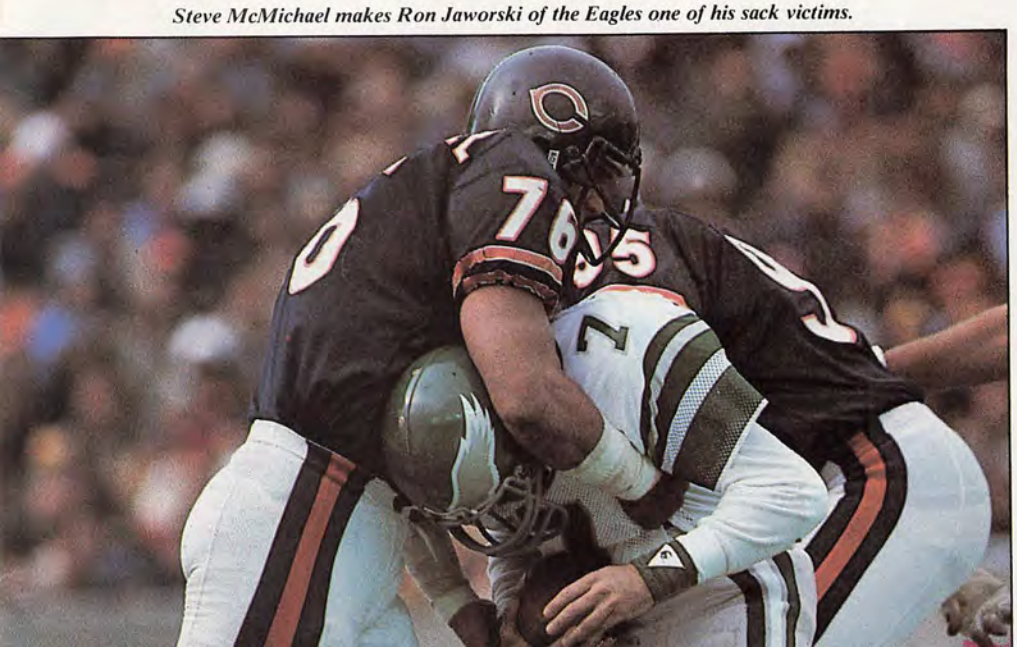
26

Walter Payton (above) arrived a long time ago, and now Jim McMahon (below) seems to have, too.



Steve McMichael makes Ron Jaworski of the Eagles one of his sack victims.



(Chicago continued)

team," says Ditka. "Ask no quarter, give no quarter. We were two different teams. The maturing of the young people and settling on one quarterback had a lot to do with it.

"Suhey is a very fine football player. I don't understand why he wasn't used more often before I came here. I couldn't make a good judgment based on the strike-shortened season, but I am now aware of his capabilities. He's not big, but he plays big in terms of strength and agility."

Those are words that would please past generations of football-playing Suheys.

"I grew up with scrapbooks on football around me," says Suhey. "I parked cars as a kid, sold programs for the Nittany Lion games, scalped a few tickets. I knew all the stars. When college time came, I wanted to go to Ohio State because I admired Woody Hayes. I thought it would be good to get away from home. But I was the last of seven kids and all but one went to Penn State. And I had grown up with football at Penn State. It was part of my life."

If there was any regret, it didn't show in Suhey's performance at Penn State. He was a four-year starter. He became the Nittany Lions' second-leading rusher. The Bears made him their second-round draft pick in 1980. Last year he was second to Payton in rushing yards with 681. Payton gained 1,421 yards.

"We have a lot of talent here," Suhey says. "McMahon has arrived. He has the talent and personality to be the leader he needs to be at his position. He has poise and composure under adversity. But the real reason we have improved is our offensive line. It was an early learning experience that no part of a team is more important than the offensive line."

Ditka says, "We have a good line, which has the potential to be great."

The Bear defense was hamstrung last season because lineman Dan Hampton was not at full strength. "Linebacking needs to improve and I think it will," says Ditka. "Al Harris is moving there from the line. If every player made the contribution (linebacker) Mike Singletary does mentally and physically, we would be a better team." End Mike Hartenstine and tackle Steve McMichael led the Bears in sacks with 12 and 8.5 respectively.

The secondary suffered due to injury of veteran Gary Fencik, but he will be back. And Ditka said he is expecting improvement from his Bob and Ray kickers—Bob Thomas, the placekicker (14-for-25 on field-goal attempts) and Ray Stachowicz, the punter (37.3-yard average). Actually, Bob Parsons, who averaged 36.9 yards, did most of the punting.

With the return in top form of the likes of Matt Suhey, the Bears are expected to be contenders for the NFC Central title again.

"It is imperative we get off to a good start," says Suhey, "and it is important we carry over the enthusiasm from last year, which should be no problem."

END

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The threesome on the left came all the way from Mt. Pleasant, Texas. The bearded man and his wife are a California pair. And the folks standing at the back of the bunch are from towns like Norcross, Ga. and Hermann, Mo. There's no predicting where our next visitor's group will hail from. But one of these days, we hope it includes you.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST

Buffalo Bills
S. 2 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
S. 9 at St. Louis–12:00
S. 17 MIAMI (Mon.)–9:00
S. 23 NEW YORK JETS–1:00
S. 30 at Indianapolis–1:00
O. 7 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
O. 14 at Seattle–1:00
O. 21 DENVER–1:00
O. 28 at Miami–4:00
N. 4 CLEVELAND–1:00
N. 11 at New England–1:00
N. 18 DALLAS–1:00
N. 25 at Washington–1:00
D. 2 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
D. 8 at New York Jets (Sat.)–12:30
D. 16 at Cincinnati–1:00

Indianapolis Colts
S. 2 NEW YORK JETS–4:00
S. 9 at Houston–3:00
S. 16 ST. LOUIS–1:00
S. 23 at Miami–4:00
S. 30 BUFFALO–1:00
O. 7 WASHINGTON–1:00
O. 14 at Philadelphia–1:00
O. 21 PITTSBURGH–1:00
O. 28 at Dallas–12:00
N. 4 SAN DIEGO–1:00
N. 11 at New York Jets–1:00
N. 18 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
N. 25 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00
D. 2 at Buffalo–1:00
D. 9 MIAMI–1:00
D. 16 at New England–1:00

Miami Dolphins
S. 2 at Washington–1:00
S. 9 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
S. 17 at Buffalo (Mon.)–9:00
S. 23 INDIANAPOLIS–4:00
S. 30 at St. Louis–12:00
O. 7 at Pittsburgh–1:00
O. 14 HOUSTON–1:00
O. 21 at New England–1:00
O. 28 BUFFALO–4:00
N. 4 at New York Jets–4:00
N. 11 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
N. 18 at San Diego–1:00
N. 26 NEW YORK JETS (Mon.)–9:00
D. 2 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS–4:00
D. 9 at Indianapolis–1:00
D. 17 DALLAS (Mon.)–9:00

New England Patriots
S. 2 at Buffalo–1:00
S. 9 at Miami–1:00
S. 16 SEATTLE–1:00
S. 23 WASHINGTON–1:00
S. 30 at New York Jets–1:00
O. 7 at Cleveland–1:00
O. 14 CINCINNATI–1:00
O. 21 MIAMI–1:00
O. 28 NEW YORK JETS–1:00
N. 4 at Denver–2:00
N. 11 BUFFALO–1:00
N. 18 at Indianapolis–1:00
N. 22 at Dallas (Thanksgiving)–3:00
D. 2 ST. LOUIS–1:00
D. 9 at Philadelphia–1:00
D. 16 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00

New York Jets
S. 2 at Indianapolis–4:00
S. 6 PITTSBURGH (Thurs.)–9:00
S. 16 CINCINNATI–1:00
S. 23 at Buffalo–1:00
S. 30 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
O. 7 at Kansas City–12:00
O. 14 at Cleveland–1:00
O. 21 KANSAS CITY–4:00
O. 28 at New England–1:00
N. 4 MIAMI–4:00
N. 11 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
N. 18 at Houston–3:00
N. 26 at Miami (Mon.)–9:00
D. 2 NEW YORK GIANTS–1:00
D. 8 BUFFALO (Sat.)–12:30
D. 16 at Tampa Bay–1:00

CENTRAL

Cincinnati Bengals
S. 2 at Denver–2:00
S. 9 KANSAS CITY–1:00
S. 16 at New York Jets–1:00
S. 23 LOS ANGELES RAMS–1:00
O. 1 at Pittsburgh (Mon.)–9:00
O. 7 HOUSTON–4:00
O. 14 at New England–1:00
O. 21 CLEVELAND–1:00
O. 28 at Houston–12:00
N. 4 at San Francisco–1:00
N. 11 PITTSBURGH–1:00
N. 18 SEATTLE–1:00
N. 25 ATLANTA–1:00
D. 2 at Cleveland–1:00
D. 9 at New Orleans–12:00
D. 16 BUFFALO–1:00

Cleveland Browns
S. 2 at Seattle–1:00
S. 9 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
S. 16 DENVER–9:00
S. 23 PITTSBURGH–1:00
S. 30 at Kansas City–12:00
O. 7 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
O. 14 NEW YORK JETS–1:00
O. 21 at Cincinnati–1:00
O. 28 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
N. 4 at Buffalo–1:00
N. 11 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
N. 18 at Atlanta–1:00
N. 25 HOUSTON–1:00
D. 2 CINCINNATI–1:00
D. 9 at Pittsburgh–1:00
D. 16 at Houston–12:00

Houston Oilers
S. 2 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS–3:00
S. 9 INDIANAPOLIS–3:00
S. 16 at San Diego–1:00
S. 23 at Atlanta–1:00
S. 30 NEW ORLEANS–3:00
O. 7 at Cincinnati–4:00
O. 14 at Miami–1:00
O. 21 SAN FRANCISCO–3:00
O. 28 CINCINNATI–12:00
N. 4 at Pittsburgh–1:00
N. 11 at Kansas City–12:00
N. 18 NEW YORK JETS–3:00
N. 25 at Cleveland–1:00
D. 2 PITTSBURGH–12:00
D. 9 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
D. 16 CLEVELAND–12:00

Pittsburgh Steelers
S. 2 KANSAS CITY–1:00
S. 6 at New York Jets (Thurs.)–9:00
S. 16 LOS ANGELES RAMS–4:00
S. 23 at Cleveland–1:00
O. 1 CINCINNATI (Mon.)–9:00
O. 7 MIAMI–1:00
O. 14 at San Francisco–1:00
O. 21 at Indianapolis–1:00
O. 28 ATLANTA–4:00
N. 4 HOUSTON–1:00
N. 11 at Cincinnati–1:00
N. 19 at New Orleans (Mon.)–8:00
N. 25 SAN DIEGO–1:00
D. 2 at Houston–12:00
D. 9 CLEVELAND–1:00
D. 16 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00

Seattle Seahawks
S. 2 CLEVELAND–1:00
S. 9 SAN DIEGO–1:00
S. 16 at New England–1:00
S. 23 CHICAGO–1:00
S. 30 at Minnesota–12:00
O. 7 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00
O. 14 BUFFALO–1:00
O. 21 Green Bay at Milwaukee–12:00
O. 29 at San Diego (Mon.)–6:00
N. 4 KANSAS CITY–1:00
N. 12 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (Mon.)–6:00
N. 18 at Cincinnati–1:00
N. 25 at Denver–2:00
D. 2 DETROIT–1:00
D. 9 at Kansas City–12:00
D. 15 DENVER (Sat.)–1:00

WEST

Denver Broncos
S. 2 CINCINNATI–2:00
S. 9 at Chicago–12:00
S. 16 at Cleveland–9:00
S. 23 KANSAS CITY–2:00
S. 30 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS–2:00
O. 7 at Detroit–1:00
O. 15 GREEN BAY (Mon.)–7:00
O. 21 at Buffalo–1:00
O. 28 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00
N. 4 NEW ENGLAND–2:00
N. 11 at San Diego–1:00
N. 18 MINNESOTA–2:00
N. 25 SEATTLE–2:00
D. 2 at Kansas City–12:00
D. 9 SAN DIEGO–2:00
D. 15 at Seattle (Sat.)–1:00

Kansas City Chiefs
S. 2 at Pittsburgh–1:00
S. 9 at Cincinnati–1:00
S. 16 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS–12:00
S. 23 at Denver–2:00
S. 30 CLEVELAND–12:00
O. 7 NEW YORK JETS–12:00
O. 14 SAN DIEGO–12:00
O. 21 at New York Jets–4:00
O. 28 TAMPA BAY–12:00
N. 4 at Seattle–1:00
N. 11 HOUSTON–12:00
N. 18 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00
N. 25 at New York Giants–1:00
D. 2 DENVER–12:00
D. 9 SEATTLE–12:00
D. 16 at San Diego–1:00

Los Angeles Raiders
S. 2 at Houston–3:00
S. 9 GREEN BAY–1:00
S. 16 at Kansas City–12:00
S. 24 SAN DIEGO (Mon.)–6:00
S. 30 at Denver–2:00
O. 7 SEATTLE–1:00
O. 14 MINNESOTA–1:00
O. 21 at San Diego–1:00
O. 28 DENVER–1:00
N. 4 at Chicago–12:00
N. 12 at Seattle (Mon.)–6:00
N. 18 KANSAS CITY–1:00
N. 25 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
D. 2 at Miami–4:00
D. 10 at Detroit (Mon.)–9:00
D. 16 PITTSBURGH–1:00

San Diego Chargers
S. 2 at Minnesota–12:00
S. 9 at Seattle–1:00
S. 16 HOUSTON–1:00
S. 24 at Los Angeles Raiders (Mon.)–6:00
S. 30 DETROIT–1:00
O. 7 at Green Bay–3:00
O. 14 at Kansas City–12:00
O. 21 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS–1:00
O. 29 SEATTLE (Mon.)–6:00
N. 4 at Indianapolis–1:00
N. 11 DENVER–1:00
N. 18 MIAMI–1:00
N. 25 at Pittsburgh–1:00
D. 3 CHICAGO (Mon.)–6:00
D. 9 at Denver–2:00
D. 16 KANSAS CITY–1:00

Washington Redskins
S. 2 MIAMI–1:00
S. 10 at San Francisco (Mon.)–6:00
S. 16 NEW YORK GIANTS–4:00
S. 23 at New England–1:00
S. 30 PHILADELPHIA–4:00
O. 7 at Indianapolis–1:00
O. 14 DALLAS–4:00
O. 21 at St. Louis–12:00
O. 28 at New York Giants–4:00
N. 5 ATLANTA (Mon.)–9:00
N. 11 DETROIT–1:00
N. 18 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 25 BUFFALO–1:00
N. 29 at Minnesota (Thurs.)–8:00
D. 9 at Dallas–3:00
D. 16 ST. LOUIS–1:00

Tampa Bay Buccaneers
S. 2 at Chicago–12:00
S. 9 at New Orleans–12:00
S. 16 DETROIT–4:00
S. 23 at New York Giants–4:00
S. 30 GREEN BAY–4:00
O. 7 MINNESOTA–1:00
O. 14 at Detroit–1:00
O. 21 CHICAGO–1:00
O. 28 at Kansas City–12:00
N. 4 at Minnesota–12:00
N. 11 NEW YORK GIANTS–4:00
N. 18 at San Francisco–1:00
N. 25 LOS ANGELES RAMS–1:00
D. 2 at Green Bay–12:00
D. 9 ATLANTA–1:00
D. 16 NEW YORK JETS–1:00

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST

Dallas Cowboys
S. 3 at Los Angeles Rams (Mon.)–6:00
S. 9 at New York Giants–1:00
S. 16 PHILADELPHIA–3:00
S. 23 GREEN BAY–3:00
S. 30 at Chicago–12:00
O. 7 ST. LOUIS–12:00
O. 14 at Washington–4:00
O. 21 NEW ORLEANS–8:00
O. 28 INDIANAPOLIS–12:00
N. 4 NEW YORK GIANTS–12:00
N. 11 at St. Louis–12:00
N. 18 at Buffalo–1:00
N. 22 NEW ENGLAND (Thanksgiving)–3:00
D. 2 at Philadelphia–1:00
D. 9 WASHINGTON–3:00
D. 17 at Miami (Mon.)–9:00

New York Giants
S. 2 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
S. 9 DALLAS–1:00
S. 16 at Washington–4:00
S. 23 TAMPA BAY–4:00
S. 30 At Los Angeles Rams–1:00
O. 8 SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)–9:00
O. 14 at Atlanta–1:00
O. 21 at Philadelphia–1:00
O. 28 WASHINGTON–4:00
N. 4 at Dallas–12:00
N. 11 at Tampa Bay–4:00
N. 18 ST. LOUIS–1:00
N. 25 KANSAS CITY–1:00
D. 2 at New York Jets–1:00
D. 9 at St. Louis–12:00
D. 15 NEW ORLEANS (Sat.)–12:30

Philadelphia Eagles
S. 2 at New York Giants–1:00
S. 9 MINNESOTA–1:00
S. 16 at Dallas–3:00
S. 23 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
S. 30 at Washington–4:00
O. 7 at Buffalo–1:00
O. 14 INDIANAPOLIS–1:00
O. 21 NEW YORK GIANTS–1:00
O. 28 ST. LOUIS–1:00
N. 4 at Detroit–1:00
N. 11 at Miami–1:00
N. 18 WASHINGTON–1:00
N. 25 at St. Louis–12:00
D. 2 DALLAS–1:00
D. 9 NEW ENGLAND–1:00
D. 16 at Atlanta–4:00

St. Louis Cardinals
S. 2 at Green Bay–12:00
S. 9 BUFFALO–12:00
S. 16 at Indianapolis–1:00
S. 23 at New Orleans–12:00
S. 30 MIAMI–12:00
O. 7 at Dallas–12:00
O. 14 CHICAGO–12:00
O. 21 WASHINGTON–12:00
O. 28 at Philadelphia–1:00
N. 4 LOS ANGELES RAMS–12:00
N. 11 DALLAS–12:00
N. 18 at New York Giants–1:00
N. 25 PHILADELPHIA–12:00
D. 2 at New England–1:00
D. 9 NEW YORK GIANTS–12:00
D. 16 at Washington–1:00

CENTRAL

Chicago Bears
S. 2 TAMPA BAY–12:00
S. 9 DENVER–12:00
S. 16 at Green Bay–12:00
S. 23 at Seattle–1:00
S. 30 DALLAS–12:00
O. 7 NEW ORLEANS–12:00
O. 14 at St. Louis–12:00
O. 21 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 28 MINNESOTA–12:00
N. 4 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS–12:00
N. 11 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
N. 18 DETROIT–12:00
N. 25 at Minnesota–3:00
D. 3 at San Diego (Mon.)–6:00
D. 9 GREEN BAY–12:00
D. 16 at Detroit–1:00

Detroit Lions
S. 2 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
S. 9 at Atlanta–1:00
S. 16 at Tampa Bay–4:00
S. 23 MINNESOTA–1:00
S. 30 at San Diego–1:00
O. 7 DENVER–1:00
O. 14 TAMPA BAY–1:00
O. 21 at Minnesota–12:00
O. 28 at Green Bay–12:00
N. 4 PHILADELPHIA–1:00
N. 11 at Washington–1:00
N. 18 at Chicago–12:00
N. 22 GREEN BAY (Thanksgiving)–12:30
D. 2 at Seattle–1:00
D. 10 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (Mon.)–9:00
D. 16 CHICAGO–1:00

Green Bay Packers
S. 2 ST. LOUIS–12:00
S. 9 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00
S. 16 CHICAGO–12:00
S. 23 at Dallas–3:00
S. 30 at Tampa Bay–4:00
O. 7 SAN DIEGO–3:00
O. 15 at Denver (Mon.)–7:00
O. 21 SEATTLE at Milwaukee–12:00
O. 28 DETROIT–12:00
N. 4 at New Orleans–12:00
N. 11 MINNESOTA at Milwaukee–12:00
N. 18 LOS ANGELES RAMS at Milw.–12:00
N. 22 at Detroit (Thanksgiving)–12:30
D. 2 TAMPA BAY–12:00
D. 9 at Chicago–12:00
D. 16 at Minnesota–12:00

Minnesota Vikings
S. 2 SAN DIEGO–12:00
S. 9 at Philadelphia–1:00
S. 16 ATLANTA–12:00
S. 23 at Detroit–1:00
S. 30 SEATTLE–12:00
O. 7 at Tampa Bay–1:00
O. 14 at Los Angeles Raiders–1:00
O. 21 DETROIT–12:00
O. 28 at Chicago–12:00
N. 4 TAMPA BAY–12:00
N. 11 Green Bay at Milwaukee–12:00
N. 18 at Denver–2:00
N. 25 CHICAGO–3:00
N. 29 WASHINGTON (Thurs.)–8:00
D. 8 at San Francisco (Sat.)–1:00
D. 16 GREEN BAY–12:00

WEST

Atlanta Falcons
S. 2 at New Orleans–12:00
S. 9 DETROIT–1:00
S. 16 at Minnesota–12:00
S. 23 HOUSTON–1:00
S. 30 at San Francisco–1:00
O. 7 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
O. 14 NEW YORK GIANTS–1:00
O. 22 LOS ANGELES RAMS (Mon.)–9:00
O. 28 at Pittsburgh–4:00
N. 5 at Washington (Mon.)–9:00
N. 11 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
N. 18 CLEVELAND–1:00
N. 25 at Cincinnati–1:00
D. 2 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
D. 9 at Tampa Bay–1:00
D. 16 PHILADELPHIA–4:00

Los Angeles Rams
S. 3 DALLAS (Mon.)–6:00
S. 9 CLEVELAND–1:00
S. 16 at Pittsburgh–4:00
S. 23 at Cincinnati–1:00
S. 30 NEW YORK GIANTS–1:00
O. 7 ATLANTA–1:00
O. 14 at New Orleans–12:00
O. 22 at Atlanta (Mon.)–9:00
O. 28 SAN FRANCISCO–1:00
N. 4 at St. Louis–12:00
N. 11 CHICAGO–1:00
N. 18 Green Bay at Milwaukee–12:00
N. 25 at Tampa Bay–1:00
D. 2 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
D. 9 HOUSTON–1:00
D. 14 at San Francisco (Fri.)–6:00

New Orleans Saints
S. 2 ATLANTA–12:00
S. 9 TAMPA BAY–12:00
S. 16 at San Francisco–1:00
S. 23 ST. LOUIS–12:00
S. 30 at Houston–3:00
O. 7 at Chicago–12:00
O. 14 LOS ANGELES RAMS–12:00
O. 21 at Dallas–8:00
O. 28 at Cleveland–1:00
N. 4 GREEN BAY–12:00
N. 11 at Atlanta–1:00
N. 19 PITTSBURGH (Mon.)–8:00
N. 25 SAN FRANCISCO–3:00
D. 2 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
D. 9 CINCINNATI–12:00
D. 15 at New York Giants (Sat.)–12:30

San Francisco 49ers
S. 2 at Detroit–1:00
S. 10 WASHINGTON (Mon.)–6:00
S. 16 NEW ORLEANS–1:00
S. 23 at Philadelphia–1:00
S. 30 ATLANTA–1:00
O. 8 at New York Giants (Mon.)–9:00
O. 14 PITTSBURGH–1:00
O. 21 at Houston–3:00
O. 28 at Los Angeles Rams–1:00
N. 4 CINCINNATI–1:00
N. 11 at Cleveland–1:00
N. 18 TAMPA BAY–1:00
N. 25 at New Orleans–3:00
D. 2 at Atlanta–1:00
D. 8 MINNESOTA (Sat.)–1:00
D. 14 LOS ANGELES RAMS (Fri.)–6:00

(All times local. All games Sunday unless noted otherwise.)

MINNESOTA

Les Steckel hasn't received many telephone calls at home from Bud Grant. Grant doesn't like to make calls, much less long distance calls, Steckel says.

But he made two to Steckel that became landmarks in Steckel's coaching career, and the fact is, Grant almost missed Steckel both times.

The first call was on March 5, 1979. Steckel was jobless, living in San Francisco. His job with the 49ers had run out.

"My son, Christian, and I were about to walk out the door and go down to Fisherman's Wharf," Steckel recalls. "It was Bud Grant on the telephone. What a shock. I didn't know Bud Grant. He said he had heard a lot about me. He said with Fran Tarkenton retiring, he needed somebody to work with the quarterbacks and receivers under offensive coach Jerry Burns. Would I fly to Minnesota for a talk?"

"I can't be Bud Grant. . . . I can only be me and generate a team from what I have learned, which, of course, is in large part the teaching of Bud Grant."

He did and was hired. He worked hard. He was innovative and energetic and often heard Grant talk about how important it was to hire and promote from within.

Came Jan. 27, 1984, the Friday before the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. This time, Steckel, Viking assistant coach of five years, and his wife, Christine, were walking in the door of their Minnesota home as the phone rang.

"My wife took the baby-sitter home, and I told my son to take a message," says Steckel. "He said it was Bud Grant from Hawaii. I thought it was a practical joke at first, but I thought I'd better take it. It was Bud, all right.

"Bud put it simply. He said he had decided to retire and that it was unanimous among Max Winter (Viking President), Mike Lynn (General Manager) and himself that I be the next head coach. I was in shock. If Mike Lynn had not called back 25 minutes later with airplane reservations to Hawaii, I'm not sure I would have believed it."

The choice of Steckel was a bit of a surprise and represents in some ways a change from the Bud Grant system, even though he will serve as a consultant in this final year of his contract.

"I can't be Bud Grant," say Steckel. "I can only be me and generate a team from what I have learned, which, of course, is in large part the teaching of Bud Grant."

Steckel has made changes. He has hired new coaches and changed assignments of some on Grant's staff. He has hired strength and conditioning coaches. He put players on off-season training programs. Discipline and attitude are emphasized.

"We want to utilize Ted Brown's talents, and if he does, too, he will be one of the 10 best running backs in the NFL. He needs to prove that he is a durable back," says Steckel of the man who means a great deal to the running game.

The running game will be more important to the Vikes in 1984. "We want a more balanced attack," says Steckel.

From the Tarkenton days to Tommy Kramer (until the latter's knee injury early last season), the Vikings were primarily pass-oriented. Kramer, of course, is a key. Behind him is the veteran Archie Manning, obtained when Kramer went down but lightly used because he, too, was an unexpected casualty.

"We feel Kramer will be fine," says Steckel. "We can also depend on Manning. And Steve Dils has proven he has NFL ability. We have a nice problem at quarterback. Defensively, we will be simpler but more hard-nosed."

Floyd Reese is the new defensive coordinator. And hard-nosed this ambitious man of 39 is. Doubtless he has visions of the defense's return to the Purple People Eater days of the '70s, when the Vikings were going to Super Bowls.

Steckel's growing-up days were in Allentown, Pa.—the tough part of Allentown, the steelworker and cementworker part of Allentown.

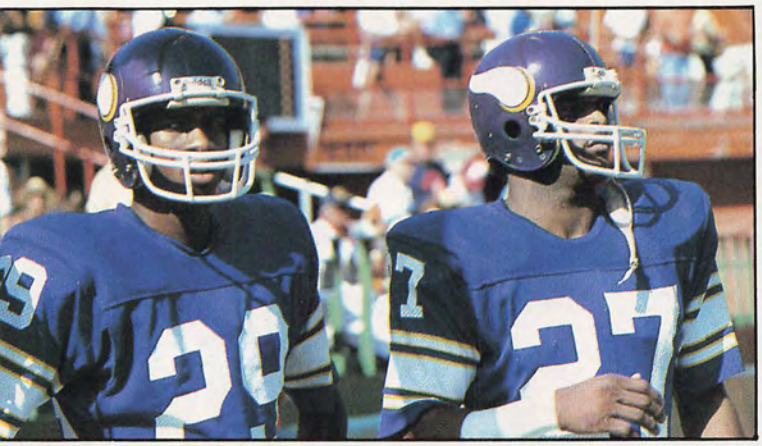
"My parents were educators," he says. "My dad taught in the daytime and

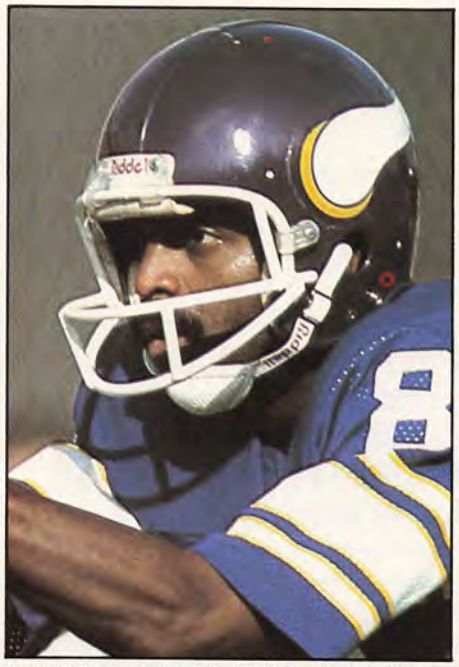
(continued)

New Vikings' Coach Les Steckel figures he's fortunate to have talents like QB Tommy Kramer and RB Ted Brown.

23

Defensive end Doug Martin (above) holds his own in line-of-scrimmage collisions. Darrin Nelson (right) is as adept running as he is receiving. John Swain and John Turner each had six interceptions.





Greg Coleman topped the NFC in net punt average.

(Minnesota continued)

worked in circulation for newspapers. The kids I ran with—well, peer pressure led me to the street gangs. I'm embarrassed to say I got into trouble with the law. But I was fortunate enough to go to college. Only one other guy in my high school graduating class did. I don't know what would have happened without college. My dad saw to it that I went."

In fact, Steckel was offered an academic scholarship to Dartmouth. It was a life's dream for the father, not for the son. He turned it down.

"I also had a shot at the Naval Academy, but I flunked the physical because of high blood pressure," says Steckel. "Then an old friend helped me get into the University of Kansas and a new environment."

What followed for Steckel at Kansas added significantly to his disciplined outlook. He played on the football team between 1964-67. He was a Golden Gloves champion. He majored in social work, human relations and political science. With the Vietnam War escalating in 1968, Steckel enlisted in the Marines with the purpose of attending officer candidate school. With a deferment before reporting, Steckel threw himself into the presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy.

Steckel became an infantry company commander in Vietnam, leading six rifle platoons of 250 Marines and 80 Vietnamese soldiers. Now it is Major Les Steckel, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He plans to stay in for his full 20 years at least.

"My work with the Marine Reserves and with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes gives my life balance," he says.

Steckel took a football graduate assistant's job at the University of Colorado, coaching there from 1972-76. He moved to the Naval Academy in 1977, then to the 49ers for one year in 1978. Grant phoned in 1979.

At Minnesota, Steckel impressed management and Grant with his knowledge, vigor and ambition. Steckel is most proud of his work with the celebrated Viking special teams.

Before him lies the problem of Kramer and tight end Joe Senser coming off injuries. Before him lies the need to shore up the defense and the simple fact that in the Central Division of the NFC, Green Bay, Detroit and Chicago probably look better on paper.

However, Minnesota has standouts even if none of the Vikings were picked for any of the All-Pro teams in 1983.

Darrin Nelson gained 642 yards rushing (averaging 4.2), added 618 yards on 51 pass catches and ranked first in the NFC on kickoff returns with a 24.7 average (18 returns for 445 yards).

Brown picked up 476 yards rushing, averaging 4.0 yards per carry, and grabbed 41 passes for another 357 yards. He scored 12 touchdowns. Tony Galbreath averaged 4.2 in gaining 474 yards on the ground and caught 45 passes for 348 yards through the air. He scored six TDs.

Dils passed for 2,840 yards and 11 touchdowns, completing 53.8 percent of his throws.

Flanker Sammy White is back for another season as the team's leading wide receiver. White caught 29 passes for 412 yards and four touchdowns. Split end Terry LeCount and backup Sam McCullum return. Last season, each had 21 receptions for more than 300 yards.

On defense, the leaders up front are ends Doug Martin and Neil Elshire. Martin led the Vikings with 13 sacks. Elshire was second with 9½ sacks.

At left outside linebacker, 33-year-old Matt Blair is still a factor. He was second on the team last year with 110 tackles. His running mate, left inside linebacker Scott Studwell, led with 118 tackles.

In the secondary, safety Tommy Hannon was third with 101 tackles. Cornerback John Swain and safety John Turner were the pass-theft leaders with six interceptions apiece.

Greg Coleman is back to ably man the punting spot. In '83, he topped the NFC in net average yards per punt. He kicked 91 times for 3,323 net yards and a net yardage average of 36.5 per punt.

Steckel knows replacing Grant will be tough. "Bud is a special person in all aspects of his life," Steckel says. "He's a man's man. Bud's in the Lombardi category, and the gentlemen replacing Lombardi had a tough time. But I think every coach, at times, has the ambition to be the head coach. I've told Bud that I crave that responsibility."

Now he has it.

END

TAMPA BAY

One of the best-kept secrets in the National Football League is named James Wilder.

And to hear James Wilder tell it, one of the best-kept secrets in Tampa Bay is James Wilder.

"Jimmie Giles . . . right?"

That's how Wilder says he is occasionally greeted in shopping malls and at gatherings on the west coast of Florida.

Tight end Giles and running back Wilder do have a few things in common. They play on offense for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Both have exceptional pass-receiving hands. They're the same height: 6-3.

Wilder seems about to shed the Rodney Dangerfield posture. Last year he laid the groundwork for a possible 1985 Pro Bowl appearance. Coach John McKay called Wilder the Bucs' "ultimate weapon."

What they do not have in common is media attention, which focuses more on Giles, only Buccaneer offensive player ever to perform in the Pro Bowl.

However, Wilder seems about to shed the Rodney Dangerfield posture. Last year he laid the groundwork for a possible 1985 Pro Bowl appearance.

Coach John McKay called Wilder the Bucs' "ultimate weapon" during the frustrating 1983 season, when Tampa Bay won only two games and was haunted by the defection of quarterback Doug Williams to the USFL.

It was a season when 18 Bucs were placed on injured reserve, a season when 29 of them missed games because of injuries. Only three started all 16 regular-season games. It was also a year when Wilder was sidelined by injury. And McKay came under fan attack, causing him to bow his neck and say he'd be back in 1984 "but not by popular demand."

Wilder will be back by popular demand, though. The truth is that he is better known and more respected and appreciated than he lets on. In 1982, when the Bucs made the playoffs for the second straight year, Wilder, still a fullback, was named Tampa Bay's Most Valuable Player. Linebacker Hugh Green was the MVP choice last season.

On April 28, 1981, the Bucs drafted Green, All-American at Pittsburgh, making him their No. 1 selection. An hour or so later, the Bucs chose Wilder of Missouri as their No. 2 pick. Both became instant regulars. Green was named to the All-NFL team in his second year. It is taking Wilder a little longer.

In his 1981 rookie season, this product of Sikeston, Mo., was a sound performer after fumbling on his first carry as a Buc. By contrast, in the 10 games he played in 1983, he fumbled only once while handling the ball 216 times.

"As a first-year man, I did not follow my blockers as I should have," says Wilder. "I was in too much of a hurry, and I'd get out in front of them. I also had to learn to catch the swing pass Doug threw."

As a sophomore pro in the strike-shortened 1982 season, Wilder averaged 3.9 yards per carry, caught 53 passes and totaled 790 yards.

In 1983, Wilder had a different role. Tampa Bay was still winless when tailback James Owens was injured in the seventh game. He was replaced by Wilder.

In Wilder's first game at tailback against New Orleans, he gained over 100 yards, rushing for 64 yards on 20 carries and receiving for 50 yards. When the Bucs' next game ended, Wilder and Franco Harris walked off the field arm-in-arm, the great Steeler running back praising the Bucs' new tailback who had carried the football 42 times. That was one more than the previous NFL record held by Harris. Butch Woolfolk of the New York Giants then broke Wilder's record three weeks later by carrying 43 times.

"I asked him for some tips," Harris cracked after the game in which Wilder gained 126 yards rushing and 48 yards on passes. "He was their offense. Our guys knew it

(continued)

James Wilder took a big step forward in his career when he carried the ball 42 times in a 1983 game, an NFL record.

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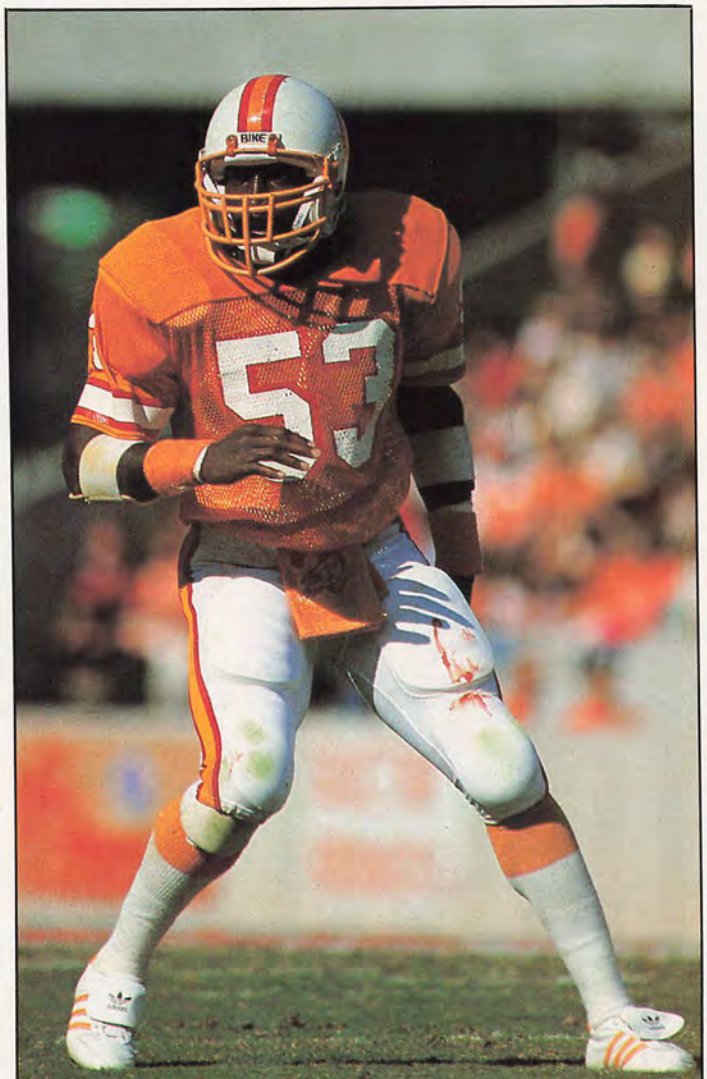
Buc Coach John McKay would tell you he's confident that All-Pro honors again await linebacker Hugh Green.



(Tampa Bay continued)

and couldn't stop him." However, Pittsburgh rallied to win the game 17-12.

Minnesota didn't do too well against Wilder the next weekend in Minneapolis. He carried 31 times for 219 yards, the most yards by an NFL rusher since Walter Payton set the record of 275 yards against the Vikings in 1977. He also caught five passes for 20 yards and scored a touchdown on a 75-yard run as the Bucs won their first game.

At Cleveland on the following Sunday, Wilder joined Tampa Bay's growing casualty list.

"I have flashes of what happened," he says. "I saw this other guy (Chip Banks) coming from the side. I didn't get down quick enough or low enough. He got me in the ribs (breaking two)."

Thompson must pick up where he left off last season. He threw 11 touchdown passes in the last four games.

Some called it a cheap shot. "It wasn't," says Wilder. "It was clean but oh, how it hurt. I had never experienced pain like that."

Fit again and looking ahead, he says, "I can't wait to get out there. Football isn't just a job to me. It's fun."

Wilder grew up in southeastern Missouri but played football at Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College for one season before transferring to Missouri. He became the school's career rushing record holder with 2,357 yards in three years.

Now, he's an established, versatile pro of great value. He remains foremost in Tampa Bay's offensive plans, especially if the Bucs use the one-back formation as McKay seeks to rebuild from the shambles of 1983.

McKay, under pressure from the public but not Owner Hugh Culverhouse, has two years to go on his coaching contract. Culverhouse, a friend and admirer of the sometimes glib, sometimes acid-tongued McKay, says he hopes McKay stays on and on. McKay is convinced he can turn it around, and says he intends to do it.

Quarterback Jack Thompson must pick up where he left off. He threw 11 touchdown passes in the last four games. Thompson should be more settled with a year at Tampa Bay behind him but will face a strong challenge from Steve DeBerg, acquired from Denver in a trade.

McKay also will need to find depth in the offensive line after losing backups George Yarno and Jim Leonard to the USFL. Lost, too, were starting outside linebacker Andy Hawkins and defensive end Dave Stalls.

Then, there's the question of an aging secondary: Mark Cotney, Neal Colzie, Mike

(continued on page 136)

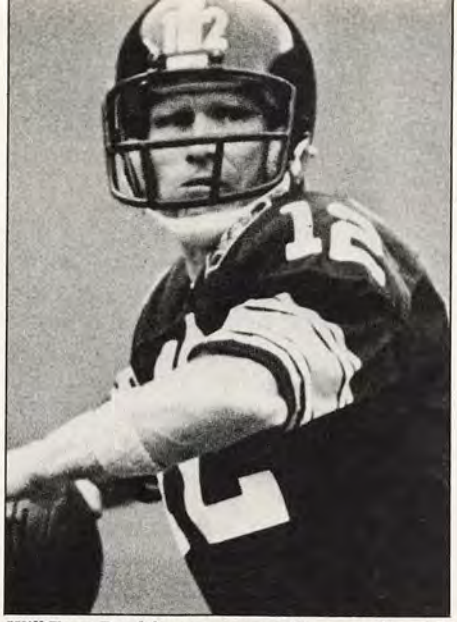
(Pittsburgh continued)
his blockers so well and how he employs that little stutterstep to get by one or two tacklers. The other thing I noticed was how he never takes a solid lick. Everybody else gets pounded but he just glides past people. It's amazing."

Harris isn't sure how much longer he can execute that little stutterstep and glide for yardage. "There are no (retirement) plans," he says. "If it (the record) is going to happen, it will happen. Nothing is guaranteed."

Well, maybe one thing. The Steeler defense, which ranked high in the NFL (303 points allowed, 295.5 yards per game, 50 sacks, 28 interceptions), is guaranteed to be swarming to the ball and gang tackling as it did in the Super Bowl years. Only linebackers Jack Lambert and Robin Cole, tackle Gary Dunn and defensive back Donnie Shell are left from the last Super Bowl team of 1980.

Despite the loss of young Gabriel Rivera, a 293-pound rookie tackle who was left paralyzed from a car crash, the Steelers can turn loose an impressive collection of young defenders: linebacker Mike Merriweather, cornerback Dwayne Woodruff, free safety Rick Woods, and ends Keith Gary, Keith Willis and John Goodman. Willis and Gary are superb pass rushers, who could start on most teams.

"The Steelers use as many as 20 players on defense," says former assistant coach Woody Widenhofer, who took a job with the Oakland Outlaws of the USFL. "They try to get the right people on the field at the right time."



Will Terry Bradshaw recover and have a ball again?

There are Steelers who specialize in pass coverage, defense against rushing and blitzing. When Rivera was active, the Steelers shuffled seven defensive linemen. He may have been the best player of all down the road, a huge man with amazing lateral quickness.

It is the defensive unit that makes Pittsburgh the favorite to repeat as AFC Central champion, assuming that Noll straightens out the quarterback problem and the team avoids an outbreak of injuries like the one that struck last season. "We had to give a lot of experience to players because of injuries," says Noll, "but I think that will make us better in the long run."

In 11 games last year, the Steeler defense held teams to 21 or fewer points. In seven games, Steeler opponents scored 14 or fewer points. In this era of the fade-and-throw offense, the Sunday performances by an injury-weakened unit were noteworthy. Lambert, no longer the classic 4-3 middle linebacker, was still terrific, pursuing from sideline to sideline and filling holes maybe even better than he did in the Super Bowl years.

The new kids—Willis, Gary and the others—sometimes suggested that this group was as good as the old Steel Curtain defense of the '70s.

"It's unfair to compare," says linebacker Loren Toews, a veteran of four Super Bowls. "I remember in the playoffs, that unit would just stuff people dead. I would think that bunch had better individual talent, but this one isn't bad."

Tough defense and a 1000-yard rusher used to be enough to put a team in the Super Bowl. The Steelers have the defense. And they have Franco Harris. The challenge is to develop a quarterback and a passing game to win it all.

END

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WASHINGTON

There was a time, back in Port Arthur, Texas, when he was setting all manner of schoolboy rushing records, that Joe Washington was certain he was going to grow into a freight train of a running back.

He would, before his career was done, be something like 6-3 and weigh in at 230, maybe 240—this was his dream even as a collegian at the University of Oklahoma, dashing and darting to school rushing marks. "I always thought," says the veteran running back of the Washington Redskins, "that I'd eventually become another Jim Brown or Billy Cannon, a real bruising kind of guy."

Ironically, it was Redskin teammate John Riggins who developed into what Washington had hoped to become. Washington, meanwhile, stopped growing at 5-10, 179 pounds. So, through a professional career which has seen him travel from San Diego to Baltimore to the nation's capital, he's made do with the size dealt him.

"I'd much rather look across the line and see Riggins lined up than Washington. You know what Riggins is going to do. With Joe, it's anybody's guess."

When the power back never developed, he became one of those hummingbird-like runners who causes nightmares for defenses. Riggins might run over a half-dozen people en route to a much-needed three yards; Washington might turn that three into 73. He also gives Joe Gibbs' offense an additional wide receiver.

"You hear a great deal about what a great back John Riggins is," says defensive tackle John Dutton of the Dallas Cowboys, "and there's no question that he is. But I'd much rather look across the line and see Riggins lined up than Washington. You know what Riggins is going to do. With Joe, it's anybody's guess. He can hurt you a number of ways."

Since Washington joined the Redskins prior to the 1981 season, his ways have not put him in the spotlight's glare. The focus has been on Riggins, the big bull ground-gainer who rules in Washington's one-back offense. Joe Washington is the relief man, the "other" back.

Gibbs says Washington is a vital part of the Redskin attack. There are plays drawn especially for the 30-year-old former Oklahoma star, who has 20-year-old speed and agility. And it has become standard procedure to insert Washington into the game when the Redskin offense has trouble getting untracked. He is, by his own admission, a game-breaker and a momentum-builder.

Consider Washington's accomplishments last year: Playing far less than Riggins, he gained 772 yards on 145 carries for a 5.3-yard average and supplemented that with 47 receptions for 454 yards and six touchdowns.

In a different time and place, Washington might be dissatisfied with how he is now used. In 1979 he led the league in receptions with 82; in his first six years in the NFL, he averaged 1,127 yards rushing per season.

Washington was the fourth player selected in the 1979 draft (by San Diego), and there was every indication that, despite his size, he would become a superstar. But now, with surgical scars on both knees and a teammate like Riggins working the same position, Washington's role is markedly different. He has learned to accept it.

"Oh, sure, I'd like to get my hands on the ball more," he admits. "I think I could be catching more passes. But as you get older and mature and understand what the pro game is all about, you learn to do your job, whatever it is, as well as you can. That's what I try to do now. And I'm happy."

Some in the Redskins' organization believe that Gibbs' offensive philosophy has added years to Washington's career. By not subjecting him to the constant beating he would take as the No. 1 back, he stays relatively injury-free.

That wasn't always the case. Washington has had six knee operations. The most recent, two years ago, was to remove cartilage from the left knee and floating particles from the right. Yet he has come back, swift and agile and eager to prove he belongs among the league's premier backs.

(continued)

Joe Washington may not be walking on air over his role, but he feels that the job he does helps the Redskins win.

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(Washington continued)

"I've always considered myself something more than a situation player," says Washington. "I don't think I'm just a third-down back or a guy who goes in to give someone else a breather.

"Quite honestly, I might feel differently if I played on another team. But things are different when you're winning. Here, we have a real team concept; everyone plays his part as well as he can. That's what makes the Redskins winners. We aren't a team of superstars. We've got a lot of people who do their jobs well. Mix it all together and you've got a pretty good situation."

Indeed, the Redskins have been rulers of the NFC for the past two seasons, winning the Super Bowl in the strike-shortened 1982 season, then returning to the championship game last January after winning a club-record 16 games. The Redskins' dream of back-to-back championships dissolved as the Los Angeles Raiders waltzed to a 38-9 victory.

"It was embarrassing," says Gibbs. "A year ago we were telling our people that our No. 1 concern was to avoid the post-Super Bowl downfall that had happened to many teams before us. By getting back to the championship game, I think we overcame that problem. But the manner in which we were beaten by the Raiders presents a new problem—and should provide everyone on our club with great motivation. Without taking anything away from the Raiders, I honestly feel we were a better team than we appeared to be. What we've got to do this year is prove that."

To do so, the Redskins, who have replaced Dallas as the NFC East frontrunner, almost need to make a record third straight trip to the Super Bowl. And, since the 1984 edition of the Washington team appears to be almost a carbon copy of the '83 NFC champion, the possibility of Gibbs and Co. realizing their present goal is certainly realistic.

Few doubt that the Redskins have the proper attitude. Says Pro Bowl guard Russ Grimm: "This team has learned a lot over the past few years. We've learned to win like a champion and to lose like a champion. We've also learned that winning is a lot more fun."

Barring the unforeseen, 1984 should again be a fun year. The high-geared Redskin offense, fueled by quarterback Joe Theismann and the Riggins-Washington punch, has emerged as the standard against which other NFC offenses are measured. Last year it rattled the scoreboard for an NFL record 541 points (33.8 per game).

Defensively, things went well: The Redskins' unit was ranked No. 1 in the NFL, held 14 of 19 opponents to less than 100 yards rushing and led in interceptions with 34.

Which is to say the Hogs (offensive line), Smurfs (wide receivers), Silent Force (defensive line), and Pearl Harbor Crew (secondary) are solid—just as Gibbs promised they would become when he took the reins in 1981.

While it was Riggins, rushing for 1,347 yards (fourth best in the NFC last year), who again commanded the lion's share of attention, the man who sparked the offense was veteran quarterback Joe Theismann. Under Gibbs' guidance, he has developed into one of the league's best field generals. No longer the scrambling, hot-and-cold performer he once was, Theismann's outstanding passing and poise under pressure earned him the NFL Most Valuable Player citation last season. With 3,714 yards, 29 touchdowns and a 60.1 completion percentage, he was bettered statistically only by Atlanta's Steve Bartkowski.

Theismann has a celebrated crew of receivers in the controlled passing game Gibbs has perfected. Wide receiver Charlie Brown shared the NFC lead last year as he caught 78 passes for 1,225 yards and eight touchdowns. On the other side, Art Monk caught 47 for 746. And any defense that decides to double-team either of the Redskin wide men is inviting a headache from running back Washington.

What makes this ideal mixture of passing and running possible is a collection of offensive linemen who call themselves the Hogs. Their size, agility and know-how made them NFL trend-setters a couple of years ago. It was the performance of Jeff Bostic, Russ Grimm and Joe Jacoby that convinced rival coaches to look to larger, more physical defensive linemen and linebackers in hopes of slowing the Washington attack.

The task won't be easier this year with All-Pro Jacoby at left tackle and improving George Starke on the right. Manning the guards will be

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Grimm, an All-Pro selection, and veteran Mark May with All-NFC Jeff Bostic at center. The depth is there with guards Ken Huff, Bruce Kimball and Roy Simmons returning along with a pair of potential standouts—tackle Don Laster and guard Bob Winckler—who spent last season on injured reserve.

At tight end, Don Warren returns, backed by Clint Didier, Mike Williams and Rick Walker.

Until the Raiders exploded in the Super Bowl, few had solved the riddle of last year's Washington defense. Even when it gave up a lot of points, it managed to stop the opposition at critical times. In fact, only Dallas' Tony Dorsett and Los Angeles' Marcus Allen managed to enjoy 100-yard days against a Redskin defense that allowed just 80.6 rushing yards per game.

"For this team to accomplish the things it wishes . . . we have to maintain the level of intensity we've had for the past couple of years. And we've got to resolve some things in our defense."

The key to that stingy stance was a forward wall manned by tackles Dave Butz and Darryl Grant, and ends Dexter Manley and Todd Liebenstein, with backup help from Perry Brooks, Tony McGee and Charles Mann.

The critical area defensively is the secondary, where bombing raids were commonplace during the '83 season. That Washington rated at the bottom of the NFL standings against the pass was no small concern for Gibbs. "When you rank first in one category (against the rush) but are 28th in another (against the pass)," he says, "you're letting one area negate the other. We've got good people, and we think they can get the job done. One of our priorities this year is to improve our pass defense."

The manpower, he says, is on board. And with the experience gained by such newcomers as fleet cornerback Darrell Green, a starter last year as a rookie, things should swing more toward the positive. Green and Anthony Washington again will man the corners with Mark Murphy and Ken Coffey at the safeties.

At linebacker, things appear solid with Neal Olkewicz in the middle, flanked by Mel Kaufman and Rich Milot.

"For this team to accomplish the things it wishes," says Gibbs, "we have to maintain the level of intensity we've had for the past couple of years. And we've got to resolve some things in our defense. If we can reach those goals, I think we can be in the thick of things."

END

If the Redskins make it back to the 1985 Super Bowl game, quarterback Joe Theismann and center Jeff Bostic (above) and running back John Riggins (left) must have superseasons.

DALLAS

To put the matter in proper perspective, it is important to note that during his 11-year playing career, Dallas Cowboy tight end Billy Joe DuPree made few waves. He was, in the business-world vernacular, a company man. His job was to play football, not to stir controversy. He played in 181 straight games, helped his team win a Super Bowl and was invited to three Pro Bowls. Nowhere in his history were demands to be traded, tirades about the manner in which his talents were used or arguments over his salary.

After announcing his retirement last March, however, DuPree jumped immediately into what promises to be the hottest controversy in recent Cowboy history. After reporters had asked him to reflect on his own career, they wanted to know his stance on the current Danny White vs. Gary Hogeboom quarterback battle.

What Hogeboom is attempting to do is unseat a man who has rewritten Dallas club records in virtually every passing category, earned Pro Bowl recognition . . .

DuPree peered over his glasses, smiled and unloaded: "My opinion right now is that the edge is with Hogeboom because he wants the job. In training camp, he'll push Danny very hard. In fact, he'll either push him to greatness or he'll push him out of the job."

It is, certainly, the kind of thing young Hogeboom, a four-year veteran out of Central Michigan, likes to hear. Anxious to put his apprenticeship behind him, he has made it clear he wants to get on with the business of playing in the NFL.

What Hogeboom is attempting to do is unseat a man who has rewritten Dallas club records in virtually every passing category, earned Pro Bowl recognition and at one point last season climbed to the No. 1 spot in the league's all-time passing ratings. Which is to say that Danny White, the man who inherited the chore of replacing the legendary Roger Staubach, has done it all. Almost.

The Cowboys, five-time Super Bowl finalists, have, since Staubach's departure, been unable to win the Big One. Three times White led them into the NFC championship game, losing first to Philadelphia, then to San Francisco, then to Washington. Last season the Cowboys exited the playoffs in the opening round. Finger-pointing ensued. There were those on the roster who, for a variety of reasons, felt it was time to give Hogeboom a chance to accomplish what White had been unable to do.

In Dallas, where anything short of the Super Bowl is considered failure, White had, in the minds of many, not provided the direction and leadership necessary to accomplish the lofty goals the team had set for itself.

So the job is up for grabs. According to many Cowboy insiders, the smart money is on Hogeboom even though he's relatively untested.

Two years ago in RFK Stadium, he did get an opportunity to compete under fire. It was in the NFC title game, and White was kayoed by Washington defender Dexter Manley. Hogeboom came on in the second half and immediately directed two scoring drives, lifting the Cowboys back into contention. Though his heroics would not be enough to save the day (the Redskins won 31-17), he threw for 162 yards and two touchdowns. He converted successfully on six straight third-down situations on scoring drives. And, most important, he won the confidence of his teammates.

Hogeboom also gained the attention of Coach Tom Landry, who, for the first two years of Hogeboom's career, called him Hogenbloom. "Gary is a competitive young man," says Landry, "and he wants to play. I like that. He'll be competing for the job this year, and I believe he'll put a lot of pressure on Danny. While I think Danny's played well, I think it is time for Hogeboom to get a chance to challenge him. What we have at the most important position on the ball club is a very competitive situation—which, so far as I'm concerned, isn't bad at all."

Hogeboom, who threw only 17 passes last season, is not playing the shrinking violet in this Cowboy soap opera. Modesty, he has decided, will get him nothing but a seat on the bench.

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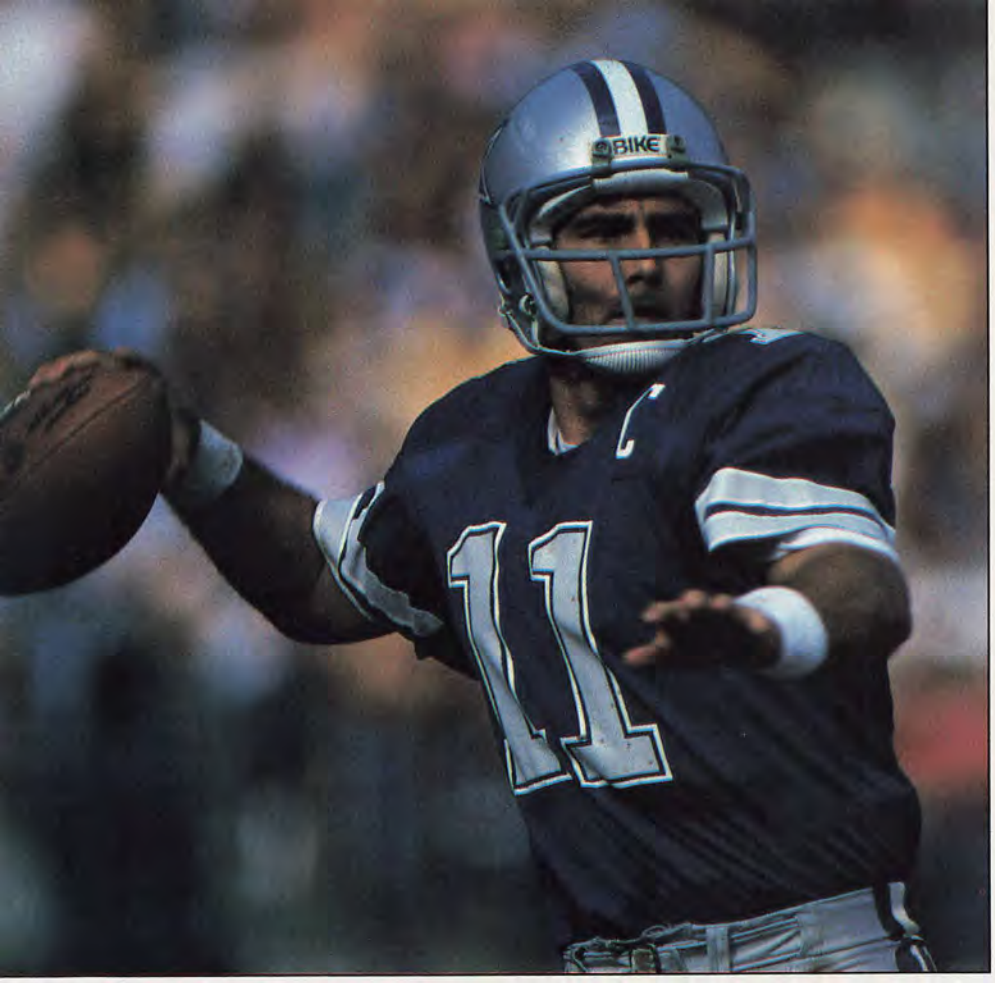
Gary Hogeboom is all set to challenge Danny White for the job of directing the Cowboys' attack.



White (above) has ranked among the NFL's top 10 passers in each of the four years he's been the Cowboys' starting quarterback. Outside linebacker Anthony Dickerson (right) gets tough pass-coverage assignments because of his unusual quickness.

(Dallas continued)

"It may be unfair," he says, "but the fact remains that we haven't won the big one, haven't been able to get over the hump and back to the Super Bowl. And Dallas is used to our being there. In recent years we've had good seasons, the kind many teams would love to have, but for the Cowboys a 'good' season isn't enough.

"If we had won the Super Bowl last year, there would be no talk of Gary Hogeboom as a challenger at quarterback. But, since we didn't, I think I've got an excellent chance of winning the job. I think I'm good enough to be playing."

He takes his case a step further, noting that "there is definitely a lack of unity and team emotion right now." Changing that, he points out, is a team responsibility, but adds, "I think the quarterback can make a big difference in the attitude of a team."

While public attention will focus on the quarterback battle, there are other areas where attention is necessary if the Cowboys are to climb back into contention for the NFC title. Suddenly, it seems, there is anxiety that Dallas may be headed in the same direction Green Bay and Pittsburgh went after their dynasty years. Veteran players at key spots are aging, and there is concern that adequate backups have not been groomed.

The departure of DuPree leaves Dallas, which has long favored a double tight-end style of offense, with only Pro Bowler Doug Cosbie at the position. Rookie Cleo Simmons played very little a year ago, and it's questionable whether he's ready to step in as the No. 2 man.

Thus there is talk that Dallas might use a one-back offense in situations when two tight ends are needed. Fullbacks Ron Springs and Timmy Newsome, each solid receivers, might become tight ends in the one-back offensive alignment. Springs could be an excellent target, having led Dallas receivers a year ago with 73 receptions, compared with 46 caught by Cosbie.

Then there is the unsettled situation at wide receiver, long a Cowboy strength. An off-season automobile accident put veteran Drew Pearson out of commission for almost two months, and he will be slow working back into playing condition. At the same time, Butch Johnson, who labored as the No. 3 wide receiver behind Pearson and Tony Hill, finally got his wish and was traded. Thus the Cowboys go to camp with only Hill and fourth-year man Doug Donley as men of experience.

Combine the quarterback controversy and the changes in the receiving corps, and it's possible that the passing attack will have a completely new look.

The running game, however, will remain the same: Tony Dorsett. After gaining 1,321 yards in his seventh NFL season, Dorsett appears to be as threatening as ever. Landry, in fact, prefers getting the ball to him more these days, since the one-back set seems to be gaining popular-

(continued on page 153)

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(Detroit continued)

happen again. Gay may be asked to move again, this time from left tackle to left end.

"It's OK with me," he says.

It's part of Clark's planning to keep the Lions on a roll.

This is a young team, one with average NFL tenure of 3.8 years.

"We are young and resilient," says Clark. "I've never worked with a harder-working bunch, or a more mature, classier group. We have people with only a year or two of experience who have an unbelievably mature approach to this game. They can perform a complicated task quickly and professionally. We have outstanding talent."

"I've never worked with a harder-working bunch, or a more mature, classier group."

One of those young talents is fullback James Jones, No. 1 pick from Florida last year. Jones was outstanding in tandem with Sims. He led the receivers with 46 receptions for 467 yards, was second in rushing to Sims with 475 yards, and was an effective blocker. Sims had another splendid season after missing three midseason games with a broken hand. He gained 1,040 yards (4.7 average) to run his four-year total to 4,419 yards. He caught 42 passes for 419 yards.

Sims will be 29 this fall, so, if he plays four or five more years, he probably will rank among the top 10 in the NFL, maybe the top five, in career rushing yardage.

With seven touchdowns in 1983, Sims broke Terry Barr's club record. Sims now has 42 touchdowns, but that's a long way from Jim Brown's NFL mark of 126.

The heavy decision relates to the quarterbacking, a key area for Clark and his new offensive coordinator, Bill Nelsen, lately of the Bucs. Clark hired Nelsen when Ted Marchibroda, his 1982-83 offensive coordinator, went to Philadelphia. Nelsen and Clark will have veterans Eric Hipple and Gary Danielson to work with, along with untested Mike Machurek.

Danielson had a higher efficiency rating than Hipple last season, because his touchdown ratio was particularly good. Danielson completed 59 of 113 passes for 720 yards and seven touchdowns, while Hipple completed 204 of 387 for 2,577 and 12 touchdowns. Danielson was intercepted only four times and Hipple 18.

Danielson, 32, needs 1,191 yards to reach the 10,000 career mark. He currently ranks third on the Detroit list with 8,809 yards. Bobby Layne, a Hall of Famer, gained 15,710 yards in the air between 1950-58, and Greg Landry compiled a total of 12,457 yards in an 11-year career that ended after the 1978 season.

Billy Sims handled the Lion's share of the offense in 1983—1,040 yards rushing, 419 yards receiving.

In Murray, the Lions have a premier placement man. He hit on 25 of 32 tries and has a 122-straight extra-point streak going. He hit 84 consecutive PATs in 1982 (after a miss) and all 38 tries in '83.

Murray isn't thinking about the league record just yet. He's just over halfway there. Tommy Davis of San Francisco set the record for consecutive PATs at 234 over a seven-year period between 1959-65. Two others topped 200—Jim Turner with 221 and George Blanda with 201. Blanda made 943 PATs in all.

Murray's season work left him with 399 career points. He'll never eclipse Blanda's record for most points by kicking (1,948), but he should better Errol Mann's club record of 636 points in a couple of years.

The Lions are favored in the Central Division. That's a cinch, just as it's a cinch William Gay will sack more quarterbacks from his left end position. Or his right end position. Or his left tackle position. Or linebacker. Remember, he played that once.

END

Eric Hipple and Danny White tied for the third-longest TD bomb in the NFC last year—80 yards.

With Brian Sipe gone, Paul McDonald has a good grasp on the quarterback job with the Browns.

(Cleveland continued)

defender in the secondary. "Our offensive line is intact for some time," the owner says. "We have eight linebackers who can't be matched, as a group, by any other team. But we need some outside speed, secondary help, and we'd love to find a great defensive end."

The offense delights Newsome, too. "I like it because of the places I line up," he says. "I must be in five or six different formations."

Newsome grudgingly admits that the Browns aren't above using some of those nifty pick plays that are illegal but seldom called, especially inside the 15-yard line where traffic is heavy. "You're not supposed to use picks," he laughs, "but we have some plays like that. There's one for me. We don't use it except in short-yardage situations when we need three, four or five yards." Is it any wonder that the Browns ranked seventh in first downs by passing (186) last season?

Without picks, Newsome says he scuffles to get open against double coverage by concentrating on one defender. "You've got to take one person to work against, then break on him," he says. "After you do that, you try to find the opening, that gray area. You try to break down that one person first."

Newsome, an All-America split end at Alabama in the '70s, isn't concerned that he is ranked behind San Diego tight end Kellen Winslow and the Los Angeles Raiders' Christensen in the public's mind. Newsome says it's all a matter of being showcased in the playoff games.

"If we just reach the Super Bowl, get in a couple of playoffs, that will help me become recognized," says Newsome. "You can be a relative unknown, like Christensen was, and then get to the Super Bowl and you're known."

Newsome grew up in Muscle Shoals, Ala., and he can't remember when he wasn't beating defenses as a receiver.

"I'm one of the few people who has always played the position I play now," he says. "I was a wide receiver and tight end in eighth grade at Colbert County (Ala.) Junior High School. I wanted to play quarterback or running back, but I always went out for receiver. I've been perfecting my skills now for 12 or 13 years. They say I've got soft hands. I joke about them. I call them baby hands. The biggest thing is concentration. Speed? I was timed in 4.6 when I first came to the Browns. That's legitimate. I may have lost a little. Maybe I'm not as fast as I was. But I've made up for that in knowledge and experience, knowing what to do. I also pride myself on timing, leaping at just the right time. Timing gives you an advantage."

"You can be a relative unknown, like Christensen was, and then get to the Super Bowl and you're known."

In Weaver's one-back scheme, Newsome lines up inside and outside and sometimes is sent in motion. "We consider Ozzie another Kellen Winslow," says Weaver. In Newsome's six years as a Brown, he's caught 351 passes for 4,569 yards and 29 touchdowns. He's started 89 straight games, not missing a single start since he joined the Browns in 1978, and has been shut out (no catches) only twice in his career. Actually, he hasn't missed a game since his youthful days at Colbert High.

Naturally, somebody tagged Newsome with the nickname "Wizard of Oz," and it stuck. "He has the best hands of any tight end in the league," says Logan. "He's big and smart. It's been a great six years playing with him."

In a game against the Baltimore Colts late last season, Newsome made the kind of play that had to be seen to be believed. On third-and-15, Sipe scrambled out of trouble and Newsome, running a short route, instinctively broke upfield. Sipe spotted the improvised move and threw the ball deep. Newsome outleaped Colt linebacker Greg Bracelin for the catch along the right sideline. Then the tight end turned a 35-yard reception into a 66-yard touchdown by veering away from Bracelin and eluding cornerback Kim Anderson with a nifty straight-arm near the goal line.

With big plays like that, the Browns may be, as Newsome says, on their way to the Super Bowl for the first time.

END

(Cincinnati continued)

League. I took a lot of abuse in the early years because of that. It was my intention to be as rough, as mean, as physical and as crazy as anyone else in the league."

The unknown factor, of course, is Wyche, once a walk-on quarterback at Furman University who started for the Bengals in 1968, their expansion year. He played nine years in the NFL with five teams. When the Bengals called, Wyche was head coach at Indiana.

Pro Bowl receiver Dwight Clark, who was coached by Wyche when the new Bengal boss handled San Francisco's passing game (1979-82), says, "Sam has a great ability for teaching receivers. He has a special knack for spotting talent in a player and helping him reach his potential. Sam's knowledge of the passing game is unequaled."

Williams, who worked as an advertising coordinator for a Cincinnati radio station in the off-season, remembers his first meeting with Wyche. "I was impressed," says Williams. "He is committed to making this year not just a transition year but a bid for the championship. That kind of attitude can become contagious. And this is important: We have more guys living here in Cincinnati than I've ever seen in my eight years. We've never had this many living in town. I'd say there are 26 players here.

"There will be a return to reason. People are not going to stay in business losing money indefinitely."

"The important thing is to communicate with one another, encourage one another. You can develop a winning attitude that way. It can grow and make this team unified."

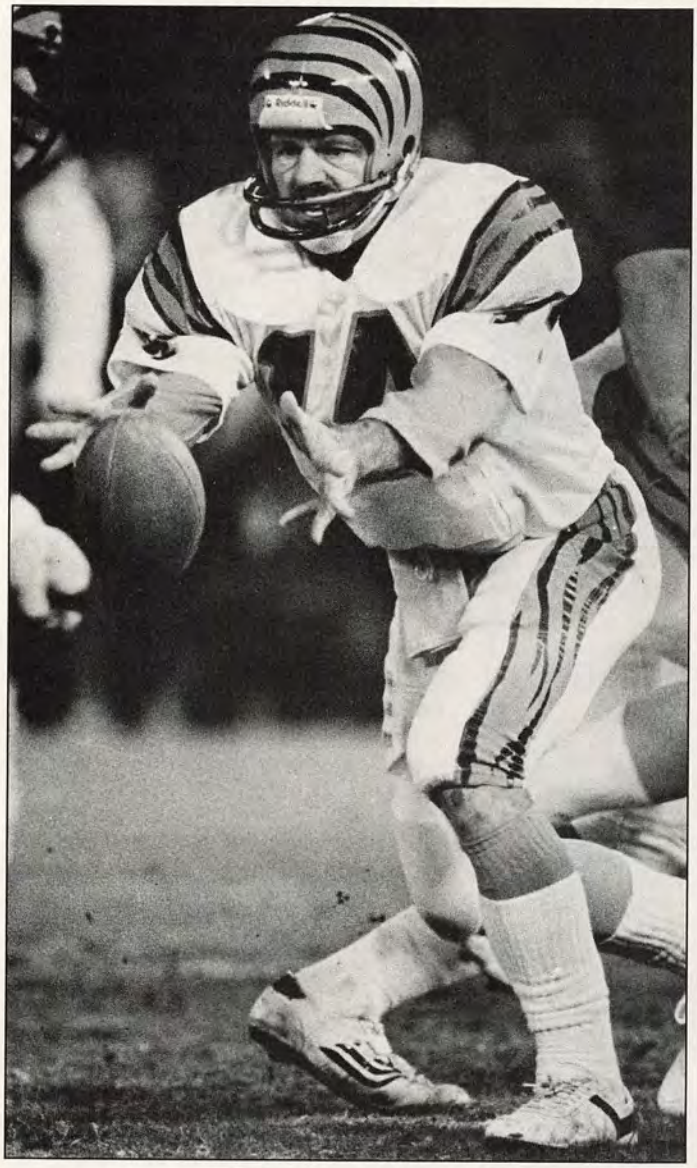
While the winds of salary skirmishes with the USFL swirl around him, Mike Brown remains unflappable, certain that there are better days ahead.

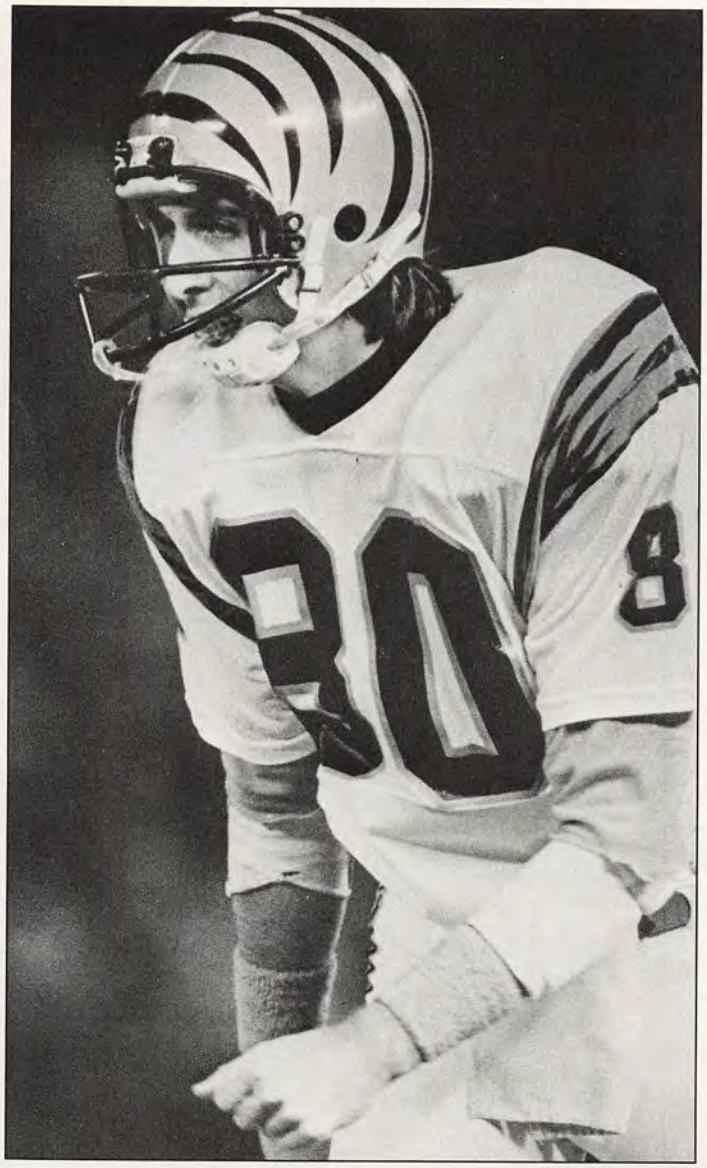
"Eventually, economic law will prevail," he says. "There will be a return to reason. People are not going to stay in business losing money indefinitely."

There may eventually be, as Brown suggests, a return to sanity and economic sense. Until then, the Bengals and other NFL teams must open their checkbooks to compete.

END

The success of Cincinnati's passing game is largely in the hands of quarterback Ken Anderson and split end Cris Collinsworth.





(Houston continued)

moving and driving through you. You have to use every resource available, or else he'll run right over you."

Munchak is actually a defensive player who flopped to offense when he arrived at Penn State. "The coaches started me out at tight end," he recalls. "I was moved to defensive end, then to offensive tackle. I learned about blocking by going up against linemen like Bruce Clark (now with New Orleans) and Matt Millen (Los Angeles Raiders linebacker). In his sophomore year, Munchak was shifted to center, then to guard, where he paired with Sean Farrell, first-round Tampa Bay draft pick in 1982.

"When Sean came to Penn State, the coaches expected everything from him," says Munchak. "I think they moved me to his position to sort of light a fire under him. Competing against Sean did the trick for both of us."

Farrell is quicker, but Munchak is more agile, with the ability to strike on the run. "Munchak's better than Farrell ever thought about being," says Bingham.

Munchak believes the key to his development as a pro lineman is coaching. "I got good coaching at Penn State," he says, "and I've gotten good coaching with the Oilers. I'd like to improve every year. This is only my fifth season on the offensive line, so I know that I'll be able to improve. I've still got much to learn."

Munchak concedes that he plays with the aggressiveness of a defensive lineman. "I play with a lot of intensity," he says. "That's always been my attitude. As a kid, I was a defensive player. I've always liked defensive better."

Not long after Munchak arrived in Houston, teammates began mentioning his name with that of New England's great pro guard, John Hannah.

"Everything Hannah could do, Munchak can do," says player personnel boss Mike Holovak. "Munchak's as good as any guard in the league."

"It's an honor to be compared with Hannah," says Munchak. "It gives me a little incentive. It makes me feel good when I'm a little down. But it really doesn't mean a whole lot. I've seen how something like this has affected other people who let it get to them. Some people live on that kind of stuff, but me, I never really listen to it."

Munchak and his defensive personality made an impression on the Oilers when he was a rookie. Seems that veteran defensive end Elvin Bethea didn't care for the way the rookie introduced himself during a workout. Tempers flared. Afterward, Bethea laughingly remarked that "the kid's got absolutely no respect for age. He wanted to show me he could play, and I wanted to show him that I could still play at my age. Right now, Munchak's an All-Pro prospect, a truly great player who can become greater."

"The kid's got absolutely no respect for age. He wanted to show me he could play, and I wanted to show him that I could still play at my age."

Offensive line coach Bill Walsh says: "He's got Pro Bowl potential and a great attitude. You don't have to repeat things. He's tough, works hard. He's a strong player and has the ability to get outside. He needs work on using his hands, but he keeps after people and stays in front of his man, so it's not really a problem."

Munchak's debut as a pro was marred when he broke an ankle in the first game against Pittsburgh after the end of the 1982 players' strike. He came back to play the final two games.

Citizens of Scranton, Pa., Munchak's hometown, would have been surprised if he had not persevered to start the last two games. The area, located in Pennsylvania's coal country, traditionally sends tough, disciplined athletes into the college ranks.

Munchak is hoping that with the coming of Hugh Campbell and Moon, the Oilers will develop the same style of players.

The Houston organization is committed to rebuilding the franchise into one of the NFL's best through the draft. Significant strides have been and are being taken under Holovak, who was named vice president of player personnel early in 1983, and with a fully staffed scouting department.

The hiring of Campbell is further evidence of the Oilers' move toward respectability.

Ladd Herzeg, the Oilers' general manager who negotiated the Campbell and Moon deals, made it clear that there was no package transaction involved.

"We had an interest in Moon before Coach Campbell became available as a result of the sale of the Los Angeles Express," says Herzeg. "Coach Campbell is here on his own merits. Now, things can happen quicker and better for the Oilers."

END

Earl Campbell should reach the 10,000-yard mark in rushing in a couple of seasons.

Safety Lyle Blackwood (above) holds his own. Andra Franklin is a model of consistency.

(Miami continued)

Clearly, this will be a devastating passing combination for many years.

David Overstreet, who had two years of experience in the Canadian League, gives them speed to the outside.

Much of the success of Marino and Duper also can be attributed to the team's outstanding offensive line. Kuechenberg, guard Ed Newman and center Dwight Stephenson were selected for the Pro Bowl, and tackle Eric Laakso was an All-Pro choice.

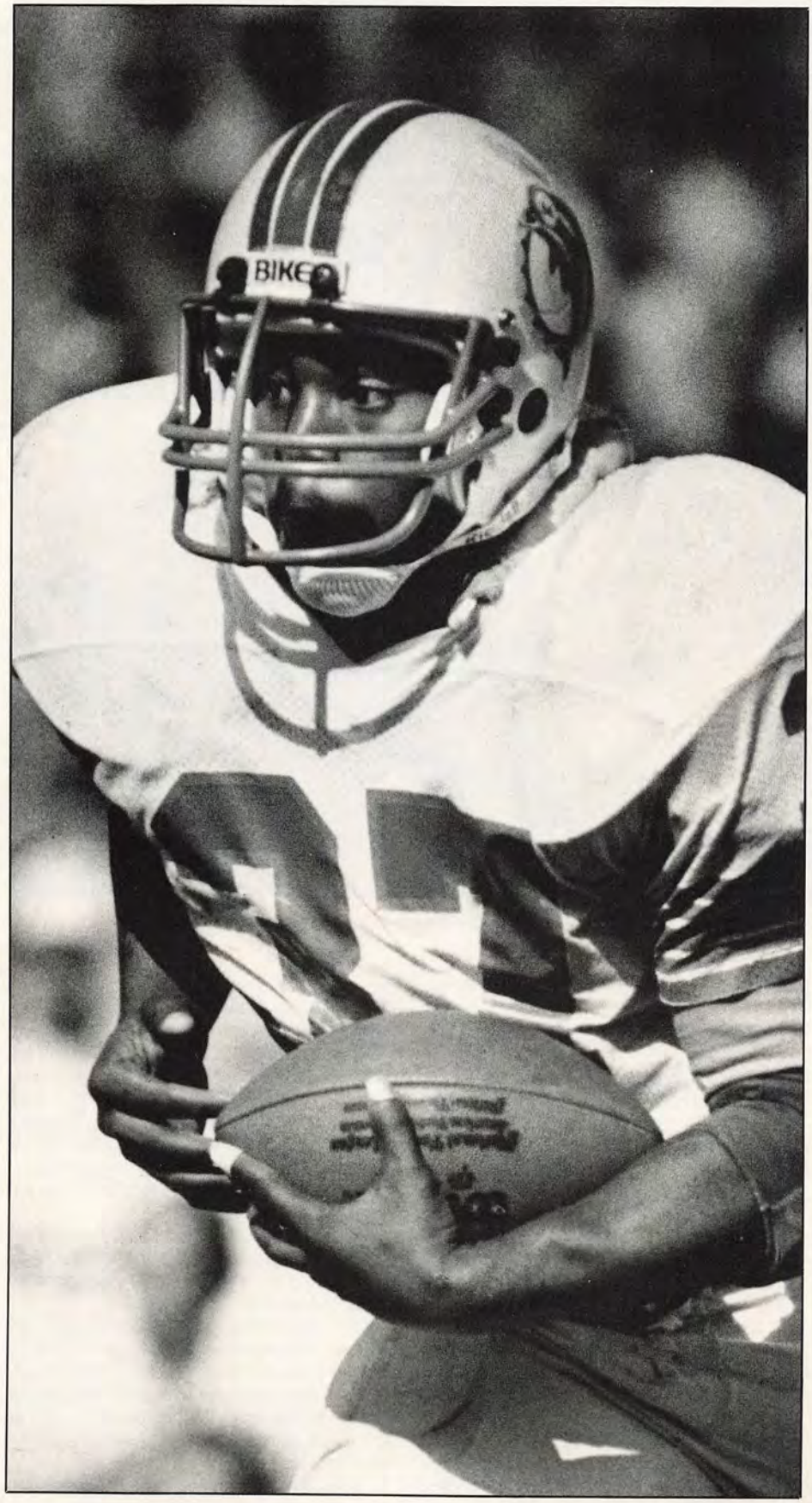
The Dolphins had no 1000-yard running back, but only because fullback Andra Franklin missed several games due to injuries. David Overstreet, who had two years of experience in the Canadian League, gives them speed to the outside.

Miami's defense led the NFL in fewest points allowed (250). Defensive end Doug Betters, a six-year veteran, was an All-Pro pick. Linebacker Bob Brudzinski, cornerback William Judson and tackle Bob Baumhower had excellent seasons, but still there is concern over inability to stop the run. Six times opposing running backs gained 100 or more yards.

"The one common denominator in all our losses was that the other team controlled the ball," Shula says. "That had to be our biggest disappointment. We made getting a top linebacker our No. 1 priority."

The Dolphins lost the man the players referred to as "our defensive genius" when Bill Arnsparger accepted the coaching job at Louisiana State. Former Houston Oiler interim head coach Chuck Studley was hired to replace him, but Arnsparger will be missed.

END



Chuck Muncie probably will lead the Chargers in rushing for the fifth straight year.

(San Diego continued)

the ball in there and allowing his receivers to make great catches," admits Los Angeles Raider cornerback Mike Haynes. "I've never seen a quarterback who dares you to intercept his passes like he does. He has three super receivers that he believes in, and even if they're covered like a blanket, he's going to force the ball in there."

Chances are the passes will be caught, alternately by Kellen Winslow, Joiner and Chandler. Even while the San Diego offense was sputtering last year, Winslow was accumulating 1,172 yards on 88 catches. He came up with 14 receptions and 162 yards in the next-to-last game of the season against Kansas City.

"No big stats. Just big plays."

That's the way Zampese summarizes the gutty performance last season of Chuck Muncie, a virtual one-man running attack for San Diego, who is showing the toughness and maturity that should benefit from—and enhance—the Chargers' passing attack this year. Muncie gained 886 yards (3.8 average) and scored 12 touchdowns as a running back.

Tom Bass, San Diego's stout defensive coordinator, admits that his social life has been restricted during the off-season by his profession and his easily identifiable appearance.

"I have trouble going out now," he smiles. "Michelle (his wife) and I were out at my son's high school game, and this little kid comes up to me and says, 'Aren't you the defensive coach on the Chargers?' And then the kid invented an obscene word."

Pressure should ease on all the defensive coaches this year, now that the rookies have discarded a few mistakes across the football fields of America.

Although Smith, a first-round selection, (defensive end at Arkansas) had trouble adjusting to his professional role as a linebacker, Green, ninth-round pick from Oklahoma State, was a real force. Walters, who played with Smith at Arkansas, finished his first season with seven interceptions.

"Defense is a priority this year," says Don Coryell, rephrasing the dedication he has voiced almost every year in San Diego.

The Chargers took a big step in improving the defense when they acquired linemen Abdul Salaam and Kenny Neil from the Jets, and linebacker Brian Kelley from the Giants.

"I don't know if many good things come out of losing," says Coryell. "You find out who hangs in there, the guys who still play hard even when there's no chance of winning."

"You never know when you'll look up and see the ball coming. There's nothing more embarrassing than having it hit you in the helmet."

Coryell hasn't had many such opportunities. Last year marked his first losing season since 1973, when he made his pro debut as coach of the St. Louis Cardinals. He has had the Chargers in the playoffs four of the last five years, yet his record since the playoff loss to Oakland in January of 1981 is barely above .500 at 24-22.

"If you start thinking about the past, you forget that what's important is right now," Coryell says.

Right now he's about ready to launch another season. And guess who'll be lining up at wide receiver one more time?

Joiner has been the Chargers' inspirational winner the last four seasons, but Coryell said he can't recall a year when any player made off with that award and MVP recognition as well.

"A lot of times you run a pattern and you're wide open, only to have the quarterback throw it somewhere else," Joiner says, explaining his philosophy of football. "But you can't ever let down, because you never know when you'll look up and see the ball coming. There's nothing more embarrassing than having it hit you in the helmet. It's never happened to me, but I've seen it happen to others. That's why I always run so hard."

You might conclude that Joiner is running scared, and has been since he left his birthplace to play high school football for the W.O. Boston Panthers in Lake Charles, La. At Grambling College, he caught passes for four years launched by a quarterback named James Harris, later to join him in the NFL.

Harris has since called it a career. So have long-ago Charger greats Tobin Rote and Emil Karas, as a matter of fact.

But Charlie Joiner keeps on running. Who knows, right at this minute there might be a football spinning on a direct path for his head, threatening to knock his helmet all the way back to Many, La.

END

(Kooch continued)

California and Florida. They eventually sold the first nine for handsome profits, but the latest, a 22,000-square-foot mansion on Miami Beach's exclusive Star Island, is now a $4 million bay-front home for them and their young daughter Alexandra.

No typographical errors, those staggering numbers are correct—22,000 square feet, roughly 10 times the size of an average house, and $4 million, roughly 50 times the cost of an average house.

The place is state of the art in beautiful living. A 400-year-old carved wooden Tibetan horse crowns the top of a magnificent curved balcony. The Kuechenbergs posed for a poster in front of the mansion, squire Bob in a tux and his lady Marilyn in an evening gown. They looked like royalty.

But it was a remarkable, exhaustive struggle to get to that point. Built in 1921 as the Miami Beach Yacht Club and unoccupied for 11 years, the mansion was in ruins when the Kuechenbergs sacrificed almost all their savings to buy it three years ago. One of Florida's biggest developers, a man with access to cheap labor and materials at cost, had concluded it wasn't worth restoring.

Still, the Kuechenbergs saw something compelling in the rotting, termite-ridden old shell. "One look at that ceiling and that bannister and owning this place was all I cared about," he says.

To see the possibilities he did says a lot about Kuechenberg's vision and imagination. To take on such an imposing challenge says a lot about both Kuechenbergs' courage and determination, especially given their depleted bank account.

They would need every ounce of that courage and determination. The project turned out to be even tougher than they had anticipated.

"Never has a war been won having lost so many battles," Kuechenberg says. "Looking back, I don't know how and why we did it. At times, the risks, disappointments, tensions and uncertainty were just too much."

Before they could even start restoration, they had to demolish. Nearly every ceiling, floor, wall and stud had to be torn out and replaced. Kuechenberg invited the University of Miami football team over for the demolishment. Sort of a party, cheap and fun.

Bob supplied muscle and as much support, mental and moral, as he could, but because he had his football career and other jobs to attend to, major responsibilities fell on Marilyn's shoulders. She did everything from taking bids on the electrical work to supervising the plastering, plumbing, paving and painting; to checking materials, paying work crews and overseeing the landscaping; to figuring out and doing the interior design; to . . .

Well, you get the idea.

"In California, the greater part of restoration is merely sandblasting the woodwork, redoing floors and repainting," Marilyn says. "But here, because of the termites and humid climate, you have to excavate the floors, rewire, install duct work and replumb. *Then* you might be ready to start on the detail work."

It took a year before the place was livable enough for the Kuechenbergs to move in. It took two more years to finish the job, but when it was done at last, the Kuechenbergs had an incredible sense of accomplishment and satisfaction—and a showplace. First-time visitors are overwhelmed by the rich textures, powerful and striking colors and sheer opulence of the mansion on Biscayne Bay. No description does it justice. You simply have to see it.

And the kicker is it's for sale because it represents the Kuechenbergs security, probably for a lifetime.

"I never expected this would be a place we'd stay for good, though I could never restore a house just for the money," Marilyn says. "I have to believe I'm going to live in it. But now I've got my eye on a couple of other houses. I'm ready to take on more, maybe one here and one in California so we can be bicoastal when Bob is through with football."

"I've adapted to this lifestyle, and I'm genuinely enjoying it," says Kuechenberg. "But at the same time, something of this size requires a great deal of overseeing, and I don't have that kind of time. If it sells, fantastic. If it doesn't, that's fine, too. I'll just continue to enjoy living here."

Squirehood on Star Island represents the end of a long, bumpy road from Kuechenberg's wild-and-crazy boyhood with his wild-and-crazy father in Hobart, Ind., on the outskirts of sooty, sulfuric, burned-out Gary.

His father's human cannonball career ended before Kuechenberg was born, but he heard hair-raising stories. "I don't know how he first decided to get into the cannon, but after a while it became too tame for him," he says. "So to make it more exciting, he arranged to get shot into the net over a couple of rides, the Ferris wheel and The Whip and something else. One day he went over, hit the net wrong and broke his neck.

"While Dad was in the hospital, my uncle Al tried substituting for him in the cannon. But they didn't shoot him out hard enough, and he landed face-first in the top booth of the Ferris wheel. My father felt real bad about it.

It was the last cannonball ride by a Kuechenberg.

Rudy Kuechenberg was in his rodeo clown phase when Bob first got to know him. Before Bob was old enough for school, his father incorporated him into the act as part of "the old gunnysack gag."

The elder Kooch would enter the corral with the sack full of sawdust on his shoulder. After being asked, "Hayseed, what you got in that sack?" he'd empty it. After repeating it two or three times a show, he'd stuff little Bob in the sack. After the Hayseed straight line, this time a tough little kid would come tumbling out and chase his old man around the arena.

"It was old, but it always got a laugh," Kuechenberg says.

At 52, Rudy was pinned to a wall by a bull, suffering a shoulder separation and smashing some ribs. That's when his wife made him quit the rodeo business, and he settled down to a career as an ironworker.

"There are Rudy stories among ironworkers all around Gary, and they're a hardy breed to begin with," Kuechenberg says.

Wild as he was, Rudy Kuechenberg stressed the importance of education to his nine children (seven of them girls). He told Bob, "Go to college or be a cannonball."

That wasn't too tough a choice. Bob's older brother, Rudy Jr., had gone to Indiana on a football scholarship as a linebacker, so there was a model to follow. Bob went to Notre Dame, where he played on the 1966 national championship team.

Kuechenberg was drafted in the fourth round by the Eagles, and that's when his time of trial began. He was cut and admits he deserved to be. "I just didn't try hard enough," he says, perhaps the only time he's ever made that statement.

The Falcons claimed him, then let him go—with Coach Norm Van Brocklin's promise of a spot on the taxi squad if he cleared waivers. He cleared, drove back to Chicago, rented a U-Haul, picked up his first wife and motored back to Atlanta. He had rented an apartment and paid a month's rent and utilities in advance.

Then the Falcons cut him again.

Thoroughly disillusioned with pro football, Kuechenberg ignored a call from the Raiders and headed back to Chicago, where he took a job with a company that made business forms. But he found himself miserable without football, so he became an Owl.

He was an Owl for seven games, got paid for two, then the team folded. But he enjoyed the playing part and renewed his quest for a place in the NFL. He checked rosters for openings at guard, saw opportunity with a struggling Dolphin team and came to Miami as a lowly walk-on, one of six rookie guards competing for one spot.

Kuechenberg finally got a break. The veterans went on strike and stayed out of camp for two weeks, and Shula and staff got to devote all their attention to the rookies. It was a golden opportunity, and he made the most of it.

"I knew then I *had* to play football," says Kuechenberg. "It was my life. Every play from scrimmage was the Super Bowl as far as I was concerned."

The Dolphins liked what they saw, but when they claimed center Jim Langer from Cleveland on waivers, Kuechenberg got caught in a numbers squeeze. On a black Monday, he was waived, the final cut. But Shula still had time to maneuver if Kuechenberg cleared waivers. He did, and since he was familiar with the Dolphin system and Langer was not, he was signed and activated on a sweet Thursday, and Langer was placed on the taxi squad.

Kuechenberg started the season on special teams but moved into the starting lineup when veteran Maxie Williams hurt his back. The rest is history.

Bob Kuechenberg has become a Dolphin institution. Beauty and the beast.

END

Kooch changes his tough-guy image after the game.

(Tampa Bay continued)

Washington and Cedric Brown.

In the minds of Buc watchers, the place-kicking seems questionable. Bill Capece, a field-goal standout (18 of 23) in 1982, hit only 10 of 20 attempts last year.

McKay also made two more changes. First, he hired Joe Diange, a strength coach whose main job is to put more muscle on Buc offensive linemen. The Bucs were stopped repeatedly inside opponents' 20-yard lines last season. Second, he hired John Brunner from Green Bay to become what he has called an offensive moderator, dealing with all phases of the offense. McKay remains offensive coordinator. Wayne Fontes is defensive coordinator and assistant head coach. McKay chose not to fill the special teams coaching position vacated by Frank Emanuel, who went to the Jacksonville Bulls of the USFL as defensive coordinator.

While long-suffering Tampa Bay fans may not be optimistic, the Bucs and their coach and club owner face the season in high spirits.

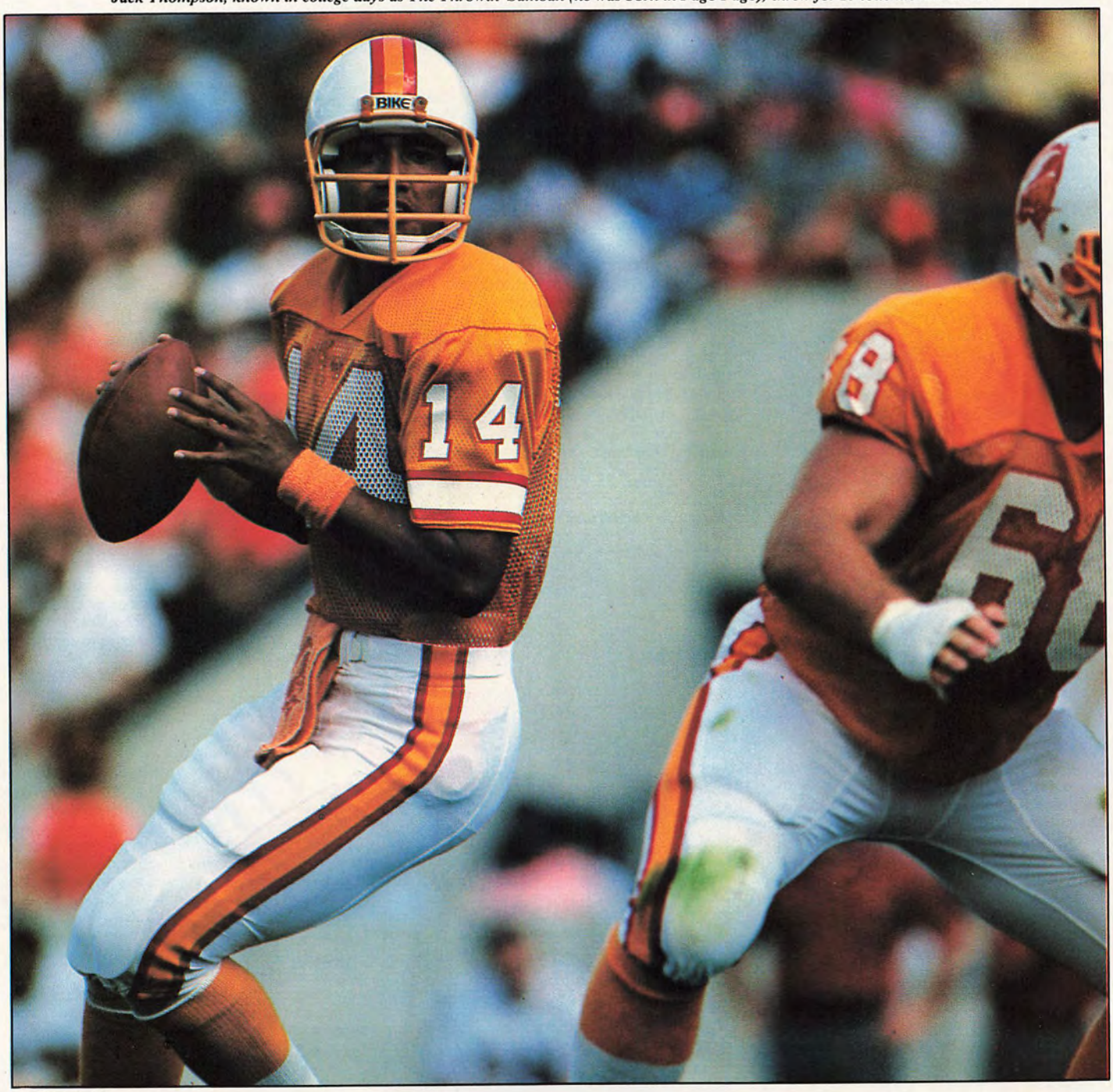
"We will compete for the championship," Wilder insists.

Culverhouse goes further.

"If they'd let me, I'd bet a million dollars, maybe more, that the Bucs will win the NFC Central Division championship in 1984," says the owner.

END

Jack Thompson, known in college days as The Throwin' Samoan (he was born in Pago Pago), threw for 18 touchdowns in '83.



(Theismann continued)

diamond cuff links—that the magazine photographed him as a fashion stylist who plays some football. He does endorsements for fitness centers, cameras, athletic shoes, clothing and banks. He makes as much as $10,000 per motivational speech to business groups. He has his own television show during the season and is publisher of a weekly newspaper named (take a guess) *Joe Theismann's Redskins Report*. His Tracy-esque mug is on the front page of each issue. All this is in addition to his considerable charity work for Children's Hospital in Washington, where his daughter, Amy, underwent heart surgery. We pause to take a breath.

Because on top of all this, it also can be argued (and will be argued in a minute, at some volume) that Theismann now is the NFL's best quarterback when you add it all up: arm, mobility, strength, athleticism, savvy, leadership and results.

To understand some of this, we probably should start at Notre Dame, where, after all, Joe Theismann was given his name. Theismann's family and friends pronounce his name Thees-man. They did, anyway, until a spring day in 1967 when the skinny freshman quarterback from South River, N.J., walked into the sports information office at Notre Dame.

Roger Valdiserri, the boss there, said to Theismann, "From now on, your name is pronounced Thighs-man."

The kid asked why. "Thighs-man, as in Heisman," Valdiserri said.

"OK," said Theismann, the dreamer.

Write it down: Joe Theismann of the Washington Redskins: millionaire quarterback, restaurateur, motivational lecturer, would-be actor, nakedly ambitious dreamer who would change his name to campaign for an award.

Pete Wysocki was a linebacker of limited skills and uncommon perception. He saw the first signs of Theismann's metamorphosis from yakkity-yakker to quarterback. Theismann stood in the 100-degree sun of a Redskin training camp in 1979. This was after the day's second workout. Theismann was doing a television interview.

"Look at him," Wysocki said. "Not even sweating. Look at him yakking away. There he is, sports fans: our leader, Captain Bubbly."

He said it in admiration.

It wasn't always so.

Theismann was an NFL rookie in 1974 when grumpy veterans wanted to go on strike. The Redskins, a nursing home for aged warriors, hoped to force cancellation of an exhibition game. Quarterbacks Billy Kilmer and Sonny Jurgensen said they wouldn't play. Without a quarterback, they figured, there would be no game. They asked Theismann to join the strike.

The decision for Theismann was easy.

He crossed a picket line to play.

There was hell to pay. Theismann was the onrushing future that Kilmer and Jurgensen didn't want to face. He'd had three good seasons in Canada before George Allen traded a No. 1 draft choice to the Dolphins to get him. He came to camp cocky.

"If I can play in Canada, there's no reason I shouldn't play here," he said.

Intimations of mortality touched the old-timers in Washington. They resented Theismann for that. It is not too strong to say they despised him as a selfish, opportunistic, cocky loudmouth.

Kilmer and Jurgensen spoke to Theismann only when football matters made it necessary. There were quarterback meetings with the three of them. The old-timers froze the kid out.

"We didn't care which one of us played," Jurgensen said of his supposed rivalry with Kilmer, "as long as Theismann didn't."

Theismann now is the NFL's best quarterback when you add it all up: arm, mobility, strength, athleticism, savvy.

When a reporter told Kilmer in 1978 that Theismann had been in Hollywood auditioning for a movie studio, Kilmer said, "What's he going to be—Mickey Mouse?"

Through 1980, when the last of Allen's codgers still decided the mood in the locker room, Theismann was only part of a quarterback. He took the snaps. He threw the passes. But there is more to it than that.

"You'd want Kilmer beside you in a foxhole," said Diron Talbert, an old tackle. The Redskins couldn't get Theismann beside them in a picket line.

He was a general who couldn't order his troops up the hill.

Another strike came in 1982. A reporter went to Theismann. Why, the reporter asked, had Theismann crossed the picket line in '74?

"I wanted to play," Theismann said.

But the old guys wanted to strike. They believed they could shut the Redskins down if they didn't have a quarterback. It was important to them and they were the team's leaders. Did Theismann disagree with the principles of the strike?

"No, it wasn't that. I was thinking about me and my family's security. I wanted that quarterback job, and I figured if I played the exhibition, I would move ahead of Kilmer and Jurgensen."

Honest.

Selfish.

Opportunistic.

Pretty dumb.

But as time cleanses, so does it transform. Now, with Allen gone, with Allen's philosophical ally Jack Pardee hired and fired, with Joe Gibbs bringing the Redskins an up-to-date offense that takes advantage of Theismann's skills—Joe Theismann is the focal point of these Redskins, an articulate spokesman with a kind word in the media for every teammate, and a helluva quarterback.

Look at some numbers. Look at the NFL's quarterback rating system. The system puts value weights on vital numbers such as percentage of passes that go for touchdowns. Anyone over a 90 rating has had a wonderful year. The NFL's top-rated quarterback in 1983 was Steve Bartkowski of Atlanta, at 97.6. The next man was Theismann at 97.0.

A critic might blurt out, *So what? So 97 is all right. So he's still behind Steve Bartkowski, for crying out loud. Bartkowski can't win for losing and he rates ahead of your boy Joe. Some great statistic you have there.*

Theismann was sacked only 34 times, while Bartkowski went down 51 times. The stats don't show that. Bartkowski gets an undeserved break there. Without that glitch in the formula, and knowing (as even your mother knows) that Theismann makes all the winner's athletic plays that Bartkowski never makes, Theismann's 97 rating is the absolute best in the NFL.

Numbers. If I want numbers, I'll do my kid's arithmetic.

But if you look hard enough at some numbers, they tell you important things. Do you know how many of today's quarterbacks ever had a 90 rating two straight years?

Easy. Dan Fouts. Ken Anderson. Danny White. Joe Montana. Ken Stabler. Terry Bradshaw probably did it five or six times. Yeah, Bradshaw. Look him up and then tell me Theismann is a better quarterback.

Only three quarterbacks in the last 10 years have had 90-plus ratings two straight seasons. Fouts has done it the last three years. Anderson did it in '81 and '82. And Theismann did it the last two seasons, 91.3 and 97. Stabler hit 103.7 one time but never reached 90 twice in a row. As for Bradshaw, he has never rated a 90.

You think anybody in Pittsburgh cares about 90? They care about those four Super Bowl rings. The guy wins football games. Give me football players who win games.

Then you want Theismann. The ultimate measure of a quarterback's effectiveness is his team's performance. Look up Bart Starr in the record book. Fairly ordinary numbers. In the Packers' Super Bowl seasons of 1966 and 1967, Starr threw 23 touchdown passes and 20 interceptions in 28 games. His average day: 10 of 17 for 146 yards. But he properly is in the Hall of Fame because, along with the coach, a quarterback carries the heaviest burden of expectation—and Starr's teams won.

OK. And you say Theismann is the best quarterback today because he has all these great stats and the Redskins have the league's best record the last two seasons: 28-4.

The guy is no Mickey Mouse anymore.

END

Honey Watching On a Sunday Afternoon

Fans of professional football know that the best way to spend a Sunday afternoon in the fall is watching their favorite teams.

The excitement of the game and the fierce competition between men who have reached the pinnacle of this demanding sport are complemented by the spectacle on the sidelines: vivacious, agile young women inciting us to cheer. Athlon *is proud to introduce some of these talented ladies to you. Derrick Doll Tammy Campbell (opposite page) was voted Doll of the Year by appreciative Houston Oiler fans. Limber Cindy Wilson (top right) of Tampa Bay hopes the Buccaneers find buried treasure this season. Vicki Ryherd and Paulette De Salvo (bottom right) can Bear-ly contain their enthusiasm for Chicago. Rookie Cowboy cheerleader Lori Neal-Mock (bottom left) has her eye on a championship year for Dallas football. In addition to waving the flag for the Patriots, Sydnee Marlborough (top left) owns a fashionable women's retail store in Boston.*

(continued)

Honey Watching

(continued)

Lissome Lisa Walsh (left), a biology major at Bridgewater State College, is up in the air over New England's prospects for '84. Also feeling the spirit for the Patriots is Deidre Wilson (below), a biology major at Boston University. Raiderette Teri Vanderstaay (bottom left) hopes to root the Raiders to another Super Bowl win. She's the manager of a racquetball and health club.

(continued on page 158)

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ST. LOUIS

You've heard the cliche: If you want to hide from the world, a good place would be the offensive line of a football team.

No doubt you know that the Washington Redskins who open the holes for John Riggins are nicknamed the Hogs. But can you name them? Who were the linemen Houston running back Earl Campbell used to take out to dinner after a good Sunday? Who were the linemen on Dallas' offensive front Tony Dorsett presented with hand-made boots a couple of years ago?

The next outstanding offensive line you aren't going to recognize resides in St. Louis. Ottis Anderson knows it well, and so does Neil Lomax. Once an area of concern, it is now one of the Cardinals' strong points.

While the Cardinals' record of 8-7-1 may not justify title talk, the fact that St. Louis closed with a 7-2-1 performance is strong indication that the team is headed up.

To judge the group's progress, one needs only to look at the statistical accomplishments of the Cardinals who get the headlines. Anderson, now in his sixth season of pro ball, rushed for 1,270 yards and had 54 receptions for 459 yards. Lomax, getting the best protection since he became No. 1 quarterback, ranked fourth among NFC passers as he hit on 209 of 354 attempts for 2,636 yards and 24 touchdowns.

And, while the Cardinals' record of 8-7-1 may not justify title talk, the fact that St. Louis closed with a 7-2-1 performance is strong indication that the team is headed up.

Tackles Luis Sharpe and James "Tootie" Robbins are convinced of that. With them around, the days of the offense suffering 98 sacks and 792 yards in losses in a single season (which happened in 1980, Jim Hanifan's first year as head coach) are history.

Prior to the 1982 draft, Hanifan made it clear that he wanted offensive linemen who could help patch the biggest problem area of the team. Thus, the Cardinals' No. 1 selection was Sharpe, a UCLA standout. Three rounds later, the name of East Carolina's Robbins was called out.

Puzzled looks were commonplace around the league.

The word was that Sharpe wasn't aggressive enough to handle the punishment NFL defensive linemen dish out. And Robbins had given up football in 1979, saying he'd lost interest and would rather take a construction job than complete his eligibility.

"When I began hearing the predraft rumors about me, I was upset," says Sharpe. "The more I thought about it, though, the more I thought there might be some basis to them. In college I'd been able to get the job done with finesse and ability. I'd never been what you could call a physical player."

Even before arriving in St. Louis, however, Sharpe had made up his mind to prove that he could battle with the best of them.

By the time the regular season opened, Sharpe was in the starting lineup. And by the season's end, nobody questioned his aggressiveness. In the final game two years ago, Sharpe and Washington end Dexter Manley engaged in a slugfest. After a couple of solid blows, both were ejected.

In the case of Robbins, there was the question of his dedication, and scouting reports suggested that the technical aspect of pro ball might be a problem.

One scout, who admits he made a mistake on the youngster, says, "Some felt he wouldn't be able to grasp and retain what he needed to stay in the league. That was a rap you heard in more than one place."

Tom Lovat, St. Louis' offensive line coach, quickly ended that line of thinking. "From the day he came to the Cardinals, Robbins absorbed coaching," says Lovat. "You explain something to him once and he's got it."

"I knew there would be people who would wonder about my dedication because I left football while I was in college," Robbins says, "but the truth is that year I took off helped me. I found out what I wanted to do with my life. I've always felt I was coachable. That rap also goes back to my dropping out of school."

(continued)

Neil Lomax came into his own with 2,636 passing yards and 26 touchdowns, thanks in part to better protection.

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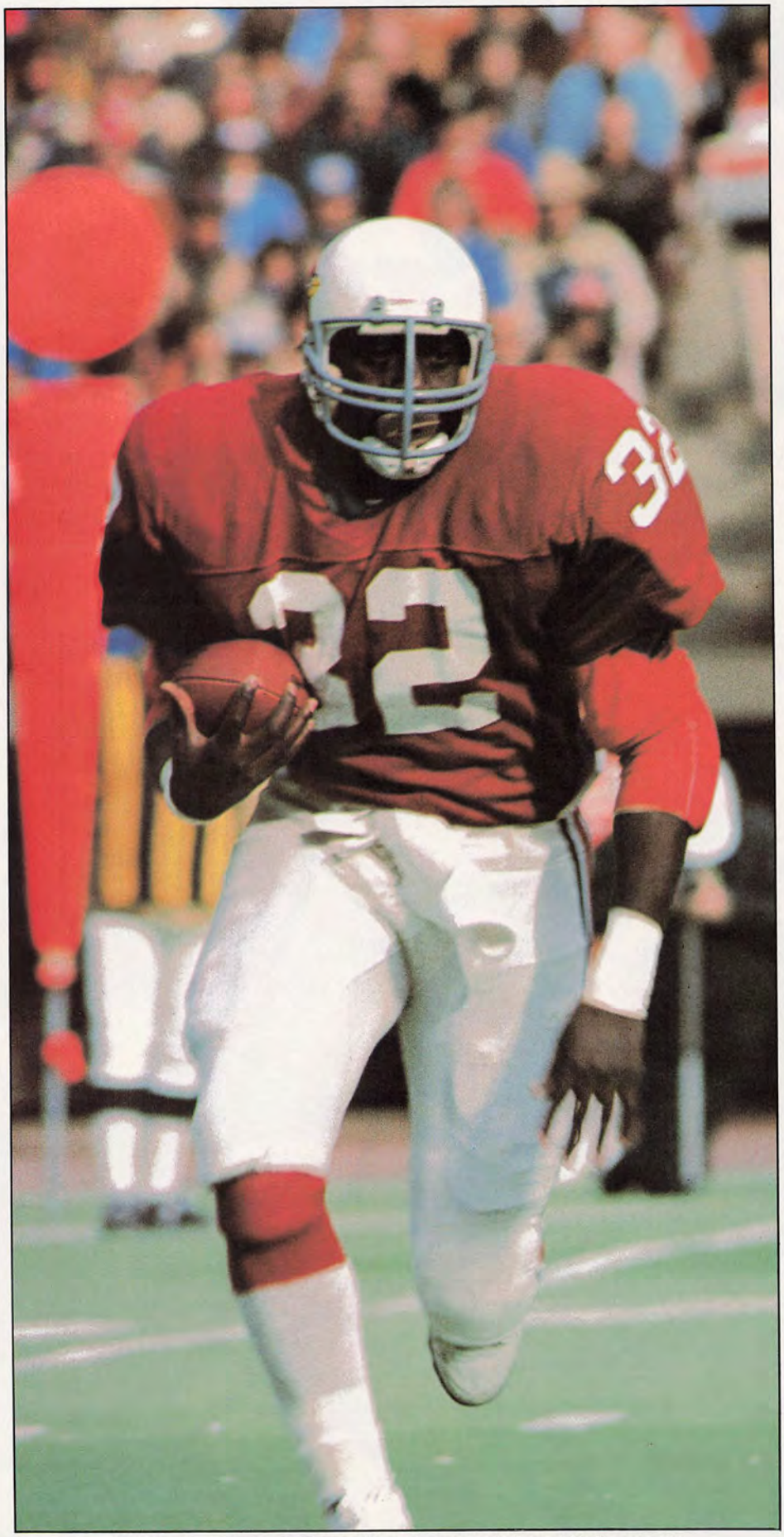
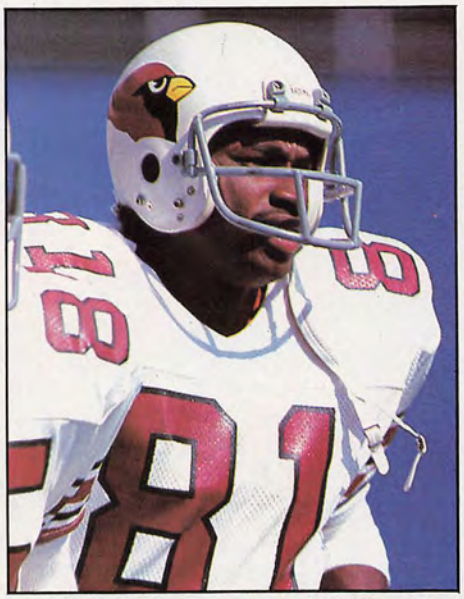
68
68



Ottis Anderson has rushed for 1,200 yards or more in four of his five seasons.



Roy Green led NFL receivers with 14 TD catches.

(St. Louis continued)

Sharpe and Robbins were impressive as rookies and even better last season.

"They're going to be outstanding linemen for a long time," says Hanifan. "They've already developed into the cornerstones of our line. Not only are they fine players, but they've also assumed leadership roles. Anytime you get a couple of guys like that in a group, working and improving, it becomes a catching thing.

"If overall improvement continues as it did a year ago, our offensive line will be powerful again."

It is not entirely a Sharpe-Robbins show. Randy Clark has established himself at center and Terry Stieve and Joe Bostic had good seasons at guard last year. Backup help was furnished by Art Plunkett, Dan Audick and Carlos Scott.

If the line improves as Hanifan expects, the Cardinals' offense could become one of the league's best.

The turnaround began when Lomax, sidelined early in the '83 season by injury, returned to form in midyear. "He established himself as one of the NFL's fine young quarterbacks," Hanifan says. "The way he came back from injury to set club records with his passing says a great deal about him."

Lomax's supporting cast is impressive.

Anderson rushed for 100 yards or more in five of the last eight games, bringing his year's total to seven. He reclaimed the club record for pass receptions by a back. "With the improvement of our offensive line, he should be on the way to regaining All-Pro status," says Hanifan.

Wayne Morris, a nine-year veteran, runs and blocks well, and is a good pass catcher. Stump Mitchell, who has built a reputation as a kick returner, adds firepower to the backfield.

Lomax has excellent receivers. Last year, in his first full season on offense, All-Pro Roy Green led NFC receivers with 78 catches for 1,227 yards and 14 touchdowns. He has a

(continued on page 150)

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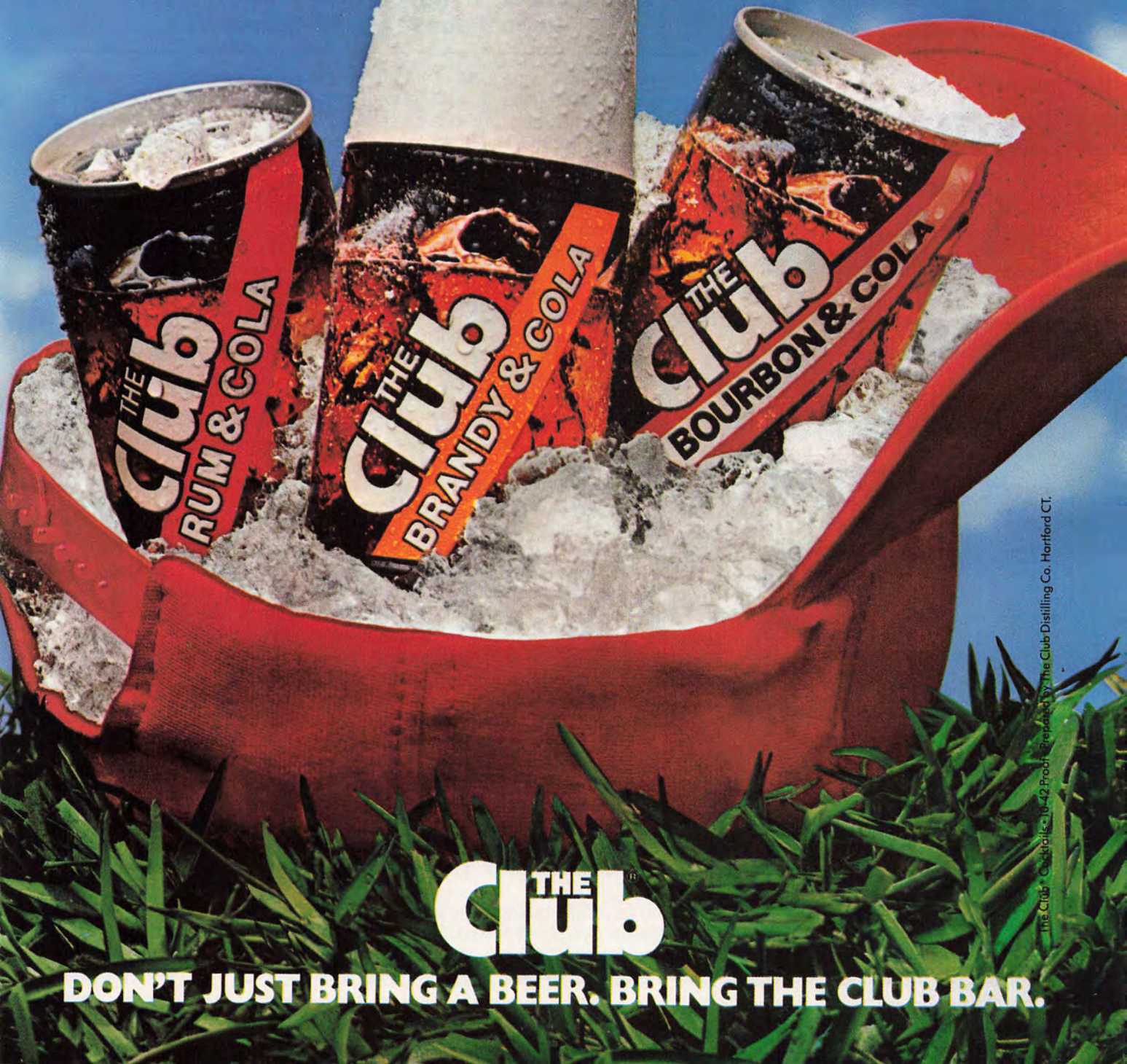

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PHILADELPHIA

It had the earmarks of a glorious decade. After a drought, Philadelphians had warmed to the Eagles and their energetic, charismatic coach, Dick Vermeil. He attacked the Dallas Dynasty in the NFC East, and his hard work and long hours paid off in 1980 when the Philadelphia Eagles won the conference championship and went to the Super Bowl.

The Eagles, some were saying, would be the Team of the Eighties.

But it never happened. Vermeil resigned after the 1982 season, a victim of "burnout." There were financial woes. Many players were shipped out. There was a housecleaning in the front office. And the team lost—3-6 in 1982 and 5-11 in 1983.

"All I want to do is work in the background. Being the daughter of a public figure, I've seen the effects of having little privacy, and I hope it doesn't happen to me."

Standing steady in the midst of the stormy situation is Susan Fletcher, daughter of Leonard H. Tose, general partner of the Eagles. She inherited the responsibility of the day-to-day operation of the franchise. Her official title is vice president and legal counsel. Early in 1983, her father announced that she would eventually succeed him as primary owner of the Eagles.

Fletcher insists that the Eagles are now headed in the right direction. She says: "All I want to do is work in the background. Being the daughter of a public figure, I've seen the effects of having little privacy, and I hope it doesn't happen to me.

"On the other hand, I've got a job to do and I'm going to get it done. Regardless of whether you are male or female, it is necessary to conduct yourself with dignity and respect in this business. And, just as important, the front office should tend to its business and leave the football people to handle the football side of the operation. That's what I've done and what I'll continue to do."

Since the end of the 1983 season, the Eagles have traded linebacker Frank LeMaster, defensive end Carl Hairston and kicker Tony Franklin. Center Guy Morriss has been released.

Linebacker Reggie Wilkes, cornerback Herman Edwards and offensive tackle Jerry Sisemore—all veterans—reportedly are available for the right price. Wide receiver Harold Carmichael was released.

Two other veterans, tackle Stan Walters and defensive back John Sciarra, have retired, bringing the list of departed starters from the Super Bowl team to 10.

"I think it is quite evident what's going on here," says quarterback Ron Jaworski. "We've had two losing seasons in a row, and not many people are happy about it. The decision has been made that if we're going to lose again, it is going to be with younger players who might develop into winners down the road."

Then he puts in his two cents worth about the economic state of the team: "One thing everyone in the NFL knows is that socialism is part of the game. All the owners get the same income, so they make their profits by reducing expenses. The team with the lowest expenses makes the highest profits."

Coach Marion Campbell, Vermeil's successor, made an auspicious debut last year, defeating San Francisco in the opener, then winning games 3, 5 and 6. But it was downhill the rest of the season.

"Our continuity was virtually destroyed when injuries broke up units that had been playing together for a long time," says Campbell. "A lot of people were shuffling in and out, and it was distracting to the players and coaches alike. You just can't get things working smoothly when you don't know from week to week who will play.

"On the other hand, we started to climb back toward the end. Our job now obviously is to keep climbing to get off to a good start in training camp and keep it rolling."

One way Campbell hopes to accomplish that goal is by adding additional fuel to his offense. Campbell hired Ted Marchibroda as offensive coordinator, an indication that the Eagles' attack will open up.

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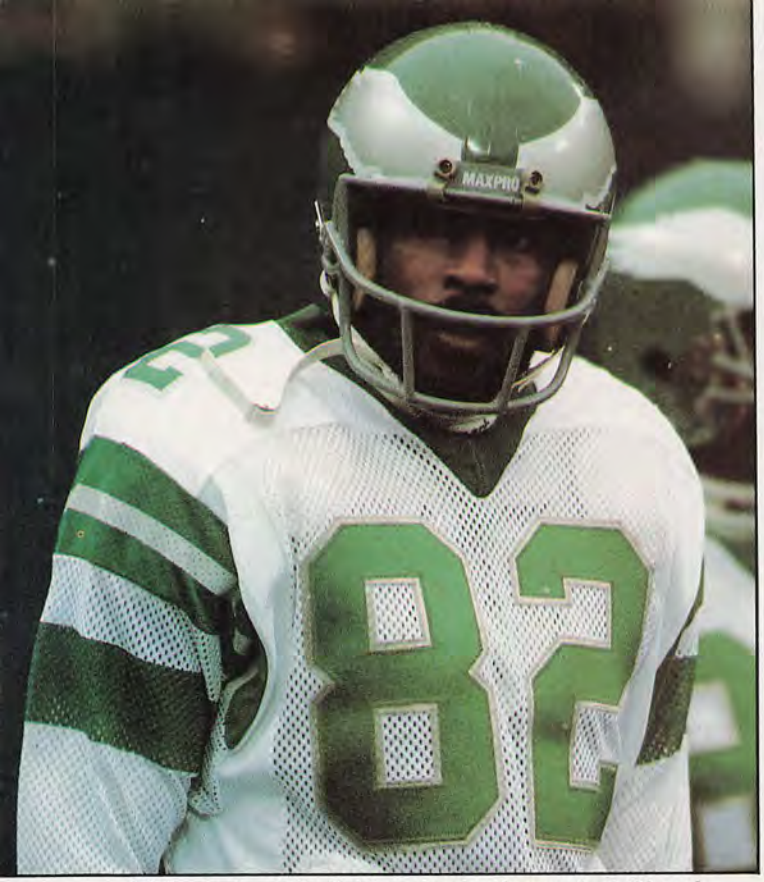
Over 11 miles—that's how far the Eagles' Ron Jaworski has passed as he starts his 11th year in the NFL.



All-Pro receiver Mike Quick sped under 69 passes for 1,409 yards.

If the Eagles win this year, linebacker Jerry Robinson will be a factor.

(Philadelphia continued)

"We have a sound offensive nucleus with Jaworski, Mike Quick, Wilbert Montgomery and John Spagnola," says Marchibroda. "What we plan to do is mix some of what the Eagles have done in the past with new ideas. The passing game will change more than the running game."

The weaponry for an outstanding passing attack is on hand as Jaworski begins his 11th NFL season with over 20,000 passing yards. 1983 was his second best. He threw for 3,315 yards. All-Pro wide receiver Quick, who led the league in receiving yardage with 69 catches for 1,409 yards and 13 touchdowns, is Jaworski's primary target. Melvin Hoover averaged 22.1 yards on 10 receptions, and 14-year veteran Carmichael caught 38 passes. Also likely to get a lot of attention are speedsters Tony Woodruff and Glen Young.

When healthy, the Philly tight end corps is exceptional. Spagnola is slated to return after missing the entire '83 season following an operation for cervical disc problems. Vyto Kab, who started 14 games, is an excellent blocker. Lawrence Sampleton may come into his own after being slowed by ankle surgery last year.

The Eagles' running game will improve dramatically with the return of a healthy Montgomery. "His value is immense," says Campbell. Sidelined for 10 games last year, the Eagle veteran still managed to average 4.8 yards on 29 tries. He'll also help the passing attack.

Depth at running back will be furnished by Perry Harrington and Michael Williams. The latter finished his rookie season as the Eagles' second-leading rusher with 385 yards on 103 attempts.

Returning at fullback will be Hubie Oliver, the club's No. 1 rusher with a career-high 434 yards. He'll be backed up by Michael Haddix.

Barring more trades, releases or retirements, the offensive line shapes up thusly: Ron Baker and Steve Kenney will return at guards, with backup help coming from Gerry Feehery and Jim Fritzsche; the veteran Sisemore, hampered last year by shoulder and ankle injuries, returns at right tackle; the left tackle job is owned by Dean Miraldi, who started six games there last year; and moving into the starting center job will be six-year veteran Mark Dennard, acquired from Miami. One of the question marks is one-time standout guard Petey Perot, who missed last season with an injured clavicle. If recovered, he could be a big factor in pass blocking.

Campbell insists that fans will witness the return of the aggressive, swarming kind of defensive play that paved the way to the Super Bowl. "We must eliminate the big plays and get some turnovers," he says. "You do that by playing aggressively. Last year we didn't do a good enough job of stopping the run and forcing passing situations. One of our main goals is to create more long-yardage situations for the opposition."

The leaders of the defense Campbell hopes to regenerate are hard-hitting safeties Wes Hopkins and Ray Ellis. Hopkins led the team with four forced fumbles, while Ellis, who started only the last four games, forced two fumbles, recovered another and had one interception. "Those two guys," says Campbell, "are the kind we want."

Rounding out what could be an outstanding secondary are cornerbacks Edwards and Roynell Young. There is depth with 12-year veteran Randy Logan, versatile Brenard Wilson, Dennis DeVaughn and Elbert Foules.

Still, in the Eagles' scheme of things, it is what's up front that is most important.

If success is to be enjoyed defensively, the linebacking depth chart will have to remain injury-free. At the end of '83, Jerry Robinson and Anthony Griggs were working at the inside spots, with Wilkes and Joel Williams manning the outside positions. Jody Schulz, a second-round draft pick in '83, started four games before being sidelined with a knee injury and could wage battle with Wilkes for the No. 1 job. Backup help is expected from Rich Kraynak, who can work at any of the four linebacking positions.

In the forward wall, left end Dennis Harrison, who had a career-high 11½ sacks last season, is the leader. Greg Brown, who took over at right end in the 12th week, had 8½ sacks and could be a catalyst with more playing time. At nose tackle again will be Ken Clark, third on the team in tackles in '83. Providing depth will be a trio of youngsters: Byron Darby, Tom Strauthers and Harvey Armstrong.

The kicking game was another problem area. Punter Max Runager was released after four games, later re-signed and wound up with a 41.7 average, ninth best in the league. In Franklin's absence, the placekicking job is open with free agents and draftees likely to bid for it.

"We hope to field the kind of team people have come to expect of the Eagles," says Campbell.

END

(Buffalo continued)

the team in receptions with 57, a club record for a running back.

"He was a great back and a great part of this team," Keating says. "I'm not going to tell you he'll be easy to replace, but I remember when he first came into the league he wasn't well-known. Maybe someone will come along in the draft. Anyway, we've got good people behind him. His loss will hurt, but I think you're going to see a much-improved football team."

They know that Chris Keating belongs exactly where they have him, smack in the middle of all the action.

The Bills will rely again on the strong arm of veteran quarterback Joe Ferguson. In 1983, nearly 90 percent of their touchdowns came on passing plays. Ferguson and backup Matt Kofler threw a club record 30 scoring passes, 26 by the former.

Jerry Butler, Frank Lewis and Tony Hunter caught 36 passes and scored three touchdowns each. Booker Moore had 34 receptions and one touchdown.

Ferguson threw 25 interceptions, the most of his career. Offensively, the Bills ranked 25th in the league and were last in yards per completion at 10.85.

The defense also was a disappointment, finishing 24th after being ranked No. 2 in 1982. The Bills intercepted the fewest passes in the AFC (13) and made only 32 sacks, next to last in the conference.

Steve Freeman, a nine-year veteran, was an All-Pro strong safety. Freeman is only 5-11, 185. "A lot of people think you have to be 6-4, 225, to play my position," he says. "You don't. You just have to play like it. I try to play as if I'm the last guy with a chance to make a play, and if I don't make it, nobody else will." Nose tackle Fred Smerlas was a second-team All-AFC choice.

If the Bills are to have success, they will have to stay healthy. Twenty-two Buffalo players missed at least one game last season, and when it had ended, there were 15 players on injured reserve.

The Bills won seven of their first 11 games, but mainly because of injuries, they lost four of the next five and dropped out of the playoff race.

"We had problems last year," Keating says. "There were a lot of factors. We had injuries, and we were playing under a new defensive system. Now we know it better, and the coaches know what we can and can't do."

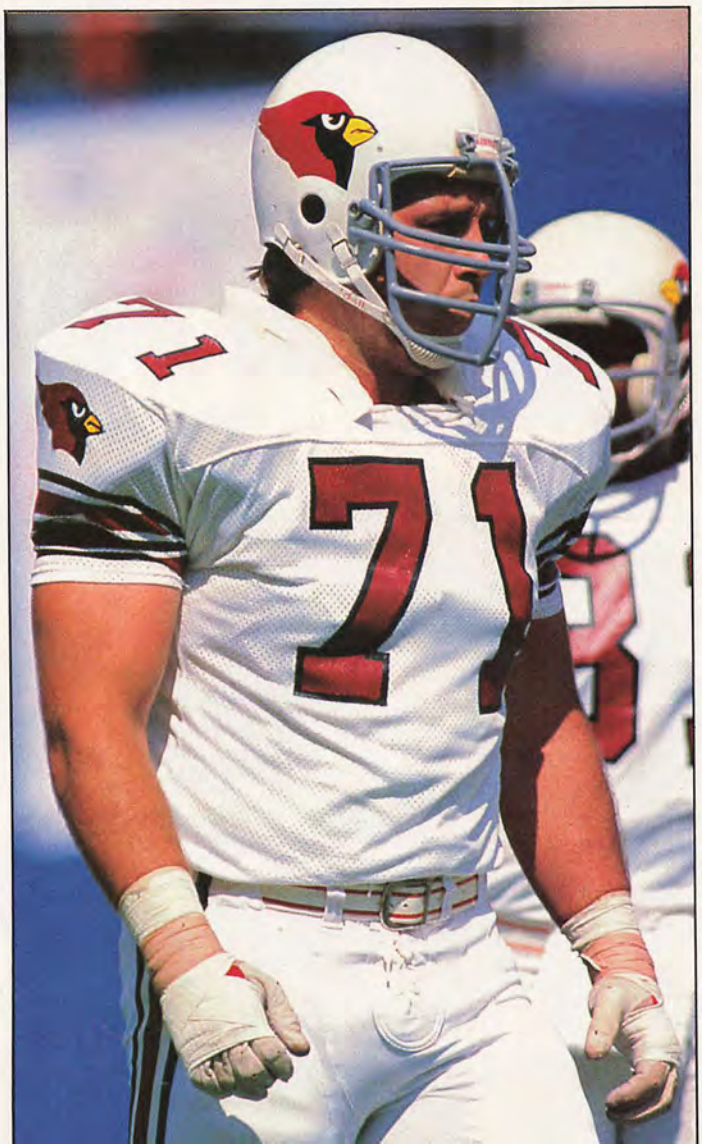
Most of all, they know that Chris Keating belongs exactly where they have him, smack in the middle of all the action.

"It sure makes football fun," he says.

END

Tackle Fred Smerlas (above) and LB Jim Haslett (below) will help to overhaul the Bills' defense.

Jerry Butler is approaching the 3,500-yard mark in pass-receiving gains.



Tight end Doug Marsh (above) and guard Joe Bostic (right) had major roles in the Cardinals' '83 resurgence.

(St. Louis continued)

streak of 40 games in which he's caught at least one pass.

Joining him at the wide-out spot is veteran Pat Tilley, who collected 44 catches for 690 yards. Tight end Doug Marsh caught 32 for 421 yards and eight touchdowns.

"Doug had his best season as a combined blocker and receiver," says Hanifan. "His improvement as a receiver gave our offense the added dimension we've needed." Backups Greg LaFleur and Eddie McGill have recovered from injuries.

With improvement in the secondary, the defense could hold up its end of the bargain.

The Cardinals' defense finished third in the NFC, thanks mainly to the play of the front four. Ends Curtis Greer and Al Baker collected 16 and 13½ sacks respectively. Left tackle David Galloway had 12. Elois Grooms, at right tackle, added another sack to the total and was credited with 39 tackles. Mark Duda and Stafford Mays are expected to contribute in '84.

The leader of the Cardinals' linebacking corps is middle man E.J. Junior, who finished with 7½ sacks, three interceptions, and ranked third among the tacklers with 86.

"It was a big shot in the arm for us when Junior put together an outstanding season," says Hanifan. "He shored up our total defensive alignment. He can be even better."

Charlie Baker improved steadily at left linebacker. Bob Harris, who was impressive as a rookie before sidelined with a knee injury, is expected to return at full strength. He was an All-Rookie choice. Providing depth will be Dave Ahrens, Craig Shaffer and Kurt Allerman.

The main man in the St. Louis secondary is free safety Benny Perrin, who contributed 96 tackles and four interceptions. Strong safety Lee Nelson was the team's leading tackler with 89 individual grabs and 30 assists.

"Perrin has had two straight excellent seasons," says Chuck Banker, assistant defensive coach. "We've got the personnel to have an outstanding secondary."

One of last year's surprises was the play of rookie cornerback Lionel Washington, who had eight interceptions, tying for second in the league. Working at the same position is Cedric Mack, who managed three thefts himself. At the other cornerback is Wayne Smith, backed up by Jeff Griffin.

Leonard Smith, slowed by injury a year ago, could move into a challenging position either at safety or on the corner.

The Cardinals may be a dark-horse bet in the NFL. Players at the skill positions are improving, depth is better, and there is a new attitude.

"This isn't a selfish team," says Sharpe. "We're working together. Good things are going to happen. When they do, everybody will deserve credit."

Even those guys in the line, whose names you've probably forgotten already.

END

(Los Angeles Rams continued)

Dickerson was a consensus All-American in his senior year at SMU and third in the Heisman Trophy voting. In his four-year career, he gained 4,450 yards on 790 carries (5.6-yard average), breaking Earl Campbell's Southwest Conference record for yardage and attempts. Dickerson scored 47 touchdowns.

And it didn't take him long to become a celebrity in Los Angeles. He landed on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and *The Sporting News* and was featured twice on "NFL Today."

Robinson, who made numerous changes in philosophy and personnel, wound up being selected as UPI Coach of the Year in the NFC.

He made nine trades and installed a single-back offense and a 3-4 defense. Two defensive veterans sparkled: Jack Youngblood, who led the team in sacks, and Nolan Cromwell, moving from free to strong safety.

Robinson . . . wound up being selected as UPI Coach of the Year in the NFC.

Robinson's job now is to take some of the load off Dickerson's shoulders. Vince Ferragamo is coming off a good season, one in which he set Ram records for passes completed (274) and yards (3,276). He completed 59 percent of his passes and threw for 22 touchdowns. He'll be banking on a group of receivers, six of whom finished with 28 receptions or more. They were led by tight end Mike Barber (55). The others were Dickerson (51), George Farmer (40), Mike Guman (34), Preston Dennard (33), and Dave Hill (28).

Robinson is encouraged by an offensive line that allowed only 21 sacks, second lowest in the league. In addition to All-Pro guard Kent Hill and tackle Jackie Slater, he got solid years from guard Dennis Harrah and center Doug Smith. Tackle Irv Pankey will be returning after Achilles tendon surgery.

Robinson's magic with the Ram defense was reflected in a rise from 27th in the NFL to 15th. Before he arrived, the Rams had trouble stopping the run; last season they went from 24th against the run to sixth.

Improvement can be credited to the 3-4 and to a healthy contingent of linebackers (George Andrews, Carl Ekern, Jim Collins and Mel Owens) and a revamped secondary of LeRoy Irvin, Eric Harris, Johnnie Johnson and Cromwell.

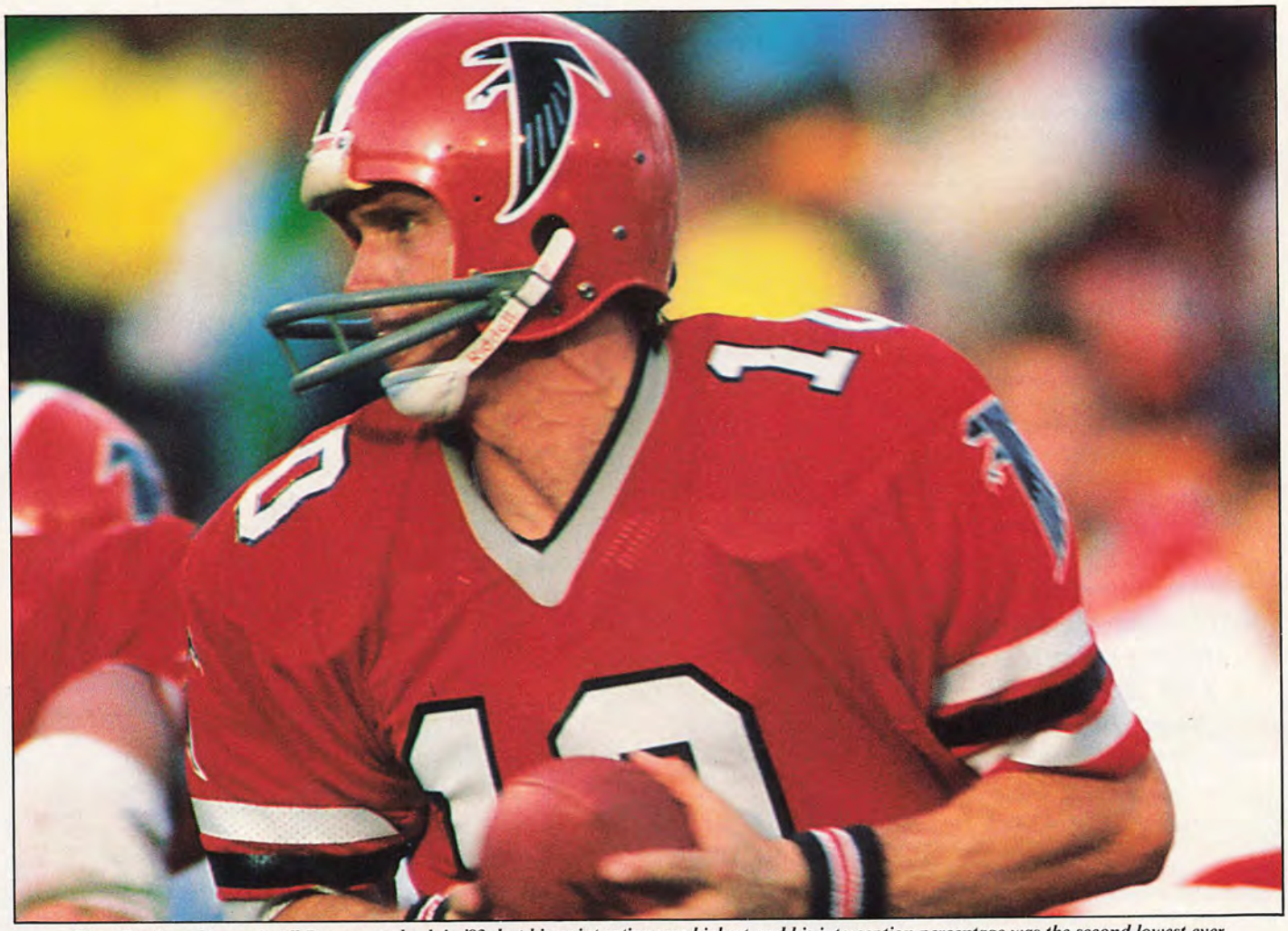
"What we need to do now is use our potential to its maximum," says Robinson.

He estimates it will take a couple of years to "get where the Redskins are today."

"We improved so much last season," says Ferragamo. "We can't help but be a better team."

END

Preston Dennard (88) and David Hill (81) are among Ferragamo's favorite passing targets.



Steve Bartkowski wasn't All-Pro quarterback in '83, but his point rating was highest and his interception percentage was the second lowest ever.

(Atlanta continued)

ondary. Pridemore tied for the most interceptions with four.

Injuries last year had an effect on the linebacker situation in that they allowed young backups to get experience. Henning feels a healthy combination of Curry, Kuykendall and Richardson would be hard to improve on.

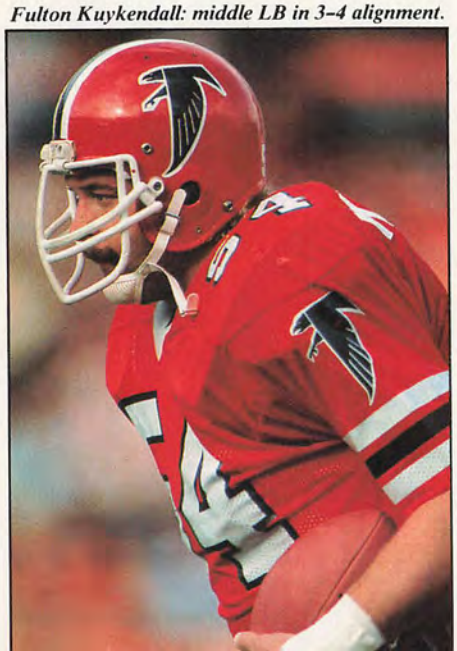
"The major problem on defense," says Henning, "will be up front, trying to decide who will play where." A year ago, the switch to the 4-3 was complicated by injuries to Zele and Don Smith, triggering a shuffling of personnel. The Falcons figure to go with Smith and Pitts at the ends, Zele and Dan Benish at the tackles.

If Henning can get his defense in gear, he is confident that the offense will hold up its end. He feels the problem of dealing with a new offense made Bartkowski the second-most sacked quarterback. He's looking for that to change because he knows he has the personnel.

Warren Bryant, who will begin his eighth season as a starter at right tackle, may have trouble holding onto his job. He will be challenged by four-year vet Eric Sanders and Brett Miller, a rookie last year. At right guard, John Scully earned the starting spot for the first time. It had belonged to Thielemann. However, when he held out during training camp, the coaches were so pleased with Scully that Thielemann was moved to left guard.

With Jeff Van Note returning for his 16th season at center, Henning is looking for him to play the role of elder statesman on one of the league's youngest clubs.

Fulton Kuykendall: middle LB in 3-4 alignment.



Henning is anxious to see how his new plans for the offense pan out. The Falcons will use more two-back alignments, which means Andrews and Gerald Riggs, former No. 1 pick from Arizona State, will be in the same backfield. Now in his third season, Riggs last year gained 437 yards on 100 carries and led the club with eight touchdowns.

"We have a fine chance to contend for the title in what probably is the toughest division in the league."

Along with Robinson, Henning also has Lynn Cain, who still ranks among the club's all-time rushing leaders with 2,037 yards.

"We've got the veterans, and we've got good young players who profited last year when they had to play," says Henning. "They faced misfortune and wouldn't quit. I look on that as a good carry-over. We have a fine chance to contend for the title in what probably is the toughest division in the league."

END

(Dallas continued)

ity. Backing him up is an improving Newsome, who will swing over to fullback to replace starter Springs in certain situations.

Up front things appear solid with only Pro Bowl tackle Pat Donovan doubtful. He's been talking of retirement. Should he choose to end his career before serving a 10th season, his vacancy will be filled by Howard Richards, a versatile lineman who could be one of the stars of the Dallas future.

Elsewhere, the names and faces will be familiar, with Jim Cooper at right tackle, Herbert Scott and Kurt Petersen at the guards, and Tom Rafferty at center. There's backup help in this area with Glen Titensor a challenger at center and tackle Phil Pozderac and guard Brian Baldinger showing steady improvement.

"We have to re-establish our level of confidence. To do so will take a lot of hard work—by everyone."

Offensively, things could fall into place despite trouble spots. Defensively, however, the questions are bigger and more plentiful.

Up front, lack of depth causes concern. After 11 seasons with the Cowboys, end Harvey Martin announced his retirement. He had achieved all manner of past honors, including All-Pro, NFL Defensive Player of the Year and Super Bowl Co-MVP. "Coach Landry is one of the best men I've known in my life; if I can take what I learned and apply it, I will be a success," says Martin, who is going into business. A pair of youngsters, Jim Jeffcoat and Don Smerek, will get ample opportunity to win the starting job in training camp.

At left tackle, John Dutton's age—33—is becoming a factor, though he played well a year ago. Right tackle is solid with All-Everything Randy White coming off an excellent '83 season. Pro Bowl selection Ed "Too Tall" Jones is at left end.

"If we can solidify things at the right end," says Landry, "I think we can expect a high level of play from our defensive line."

The linebacking situation remains stable with veteran Bob Breunig in the middle, flanked by Anthony Dickerson and Mike Hegman. Depth is a problem, however, with former backup middle man Bruce Huther in the USFL. Jeff Rohrer and second-year man Mike Walter will get first shots at backup roles.

The secondary could well be reshuffled. Last year Dallas defenders gave up the big play on a regular basis. If Landry's plans hold, All-Pro Everson Walls, the starting left corner since his record-setting (11 interceptions) rookie year in 1981, may be the only member of the secondary playing the same position in '84.

Dennis Thurman, entering his seventh season, may move from right cornerback to free safety, which has been held by Michael Downs. Downs, then, would move over to strong safety, where he would compete with Dextor Clinkscale and newcomer Bill Bates, an All-Rookie performer, for the starting job.

Meanwhile, veterans Ron Fellows and Rod Hill, spot players in the past, will battle for the right corner job.

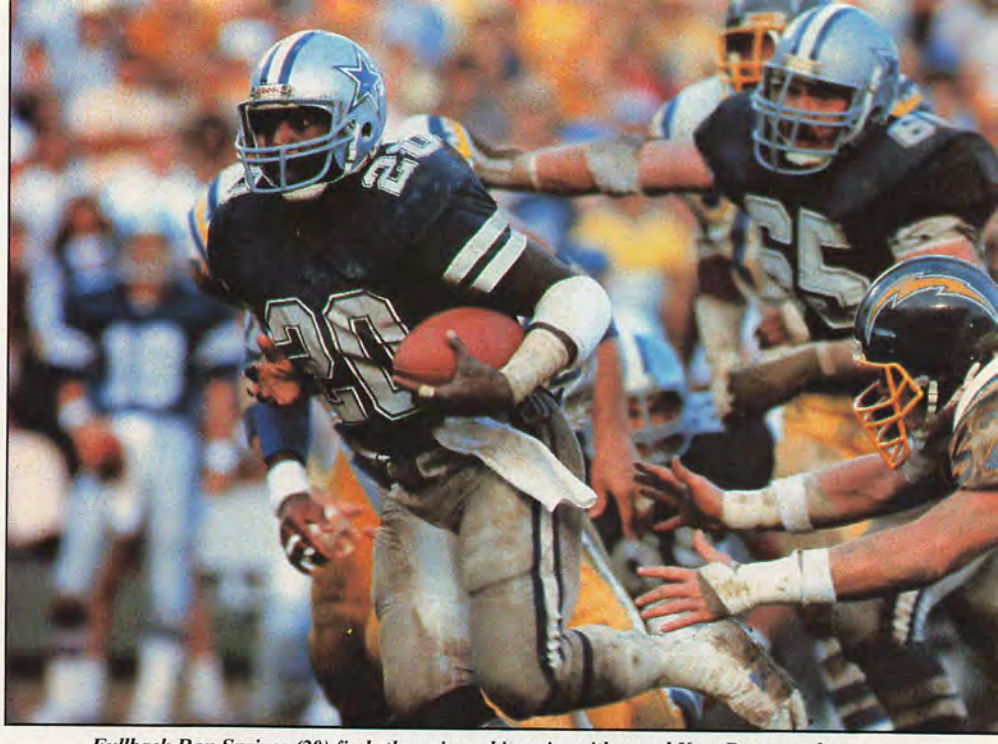
"If Dennis moves to safety," says Landry, "the entire secondary situation could become very competitive. As a group, our defensive backs are very active, but we've got to prevent big plays."

The kicking game is a question mark for the first time in years. Rafael Septien is reliable as the field-goal specialist, but the punting situation will be interesting. To relieve White of the pressure of quarterbacking and punting, Dallas kept John Warren on the roster last year. Warren punted early, then was injured, and Jim Miller came on board. Now, if White finds himself relegated to being the No. 2 quarterback, will he return to being the No. 1 punter?

It is just one of the questions as the Cowboys prepare for their 25th season in the NFL.

"We still have a bitter taste over the way things went last season," says Landry. "We hope that will be a motivating factor as we regroup for the new season. We have to re-establish our level of confidence. To do so will take a lot of hard work—by everyone."

END



Fullback Ron Springs (20) finds the going a bit easier with guard Kurt Petersen about.

Coming off an All-Pro year, defensive tackle Randy White is ready for another—it's a habit.

(Predictions continued)

John Robinson of the L.A. Rams
ATHLON'S NFL COACH OF THE YEAR

John Robinson of the Los Angeles Rams is *Athlon's* choice as 1984 preseason Pro Football Coach of the Year.

Last year, in his first campaign as an NFL head coach, Robinson achieved much success. He led the Rams to the playoffs after a two-year absence and finished with a 10–8 record overall. This season should bring much of the same, as the Rams are picked to challenge for the NFC West title and to make it to the playoffs.

Success is nothing new for Robinson, who, prior to going to the Rams, was coach at the University of Southern California. His outstanding seven-year record of 67–14–2 included three Pac-10 titles, a 4–1 bowl record, an undefeated season (1979) and a national championship (1978).

Raised in San Mateo, Calif., Robinson earned Catholic All-America and All-Northern California honors as an end on the football team in high school.

Robinson was a letter winner as an end on the University of Oregon team that won the Pacific Coast Conference title in 1957. He graduated from Oregon in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in education.

Robinson's coaching career began at Oregon where he was an assistant from 1960 to 1971. From there he went to USC as an assistant under John McKay from 1972 to 1974. He was an assistant with the Raiders under close friend John Madden in 1975. In 1976 he succeeded McKay as head coach at USC.

END

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It's homecoming for Mark Herrmann, ex-Purdue star. The Colts were second in NFL rushing, and Randy McMillan was their second-leading gainer.

(Indianapolis continued)

The Colts didn't draft for receivers, either. The first choice was defensive back Leonard Coleman of Vanderbilt. Ron Solt, an offensive guard from Maryland, also was picked in the first round. He was followed by three defensive players, then, in the fifth round, by a wide receiver, Golden Tate of Tennessee State.

Pagel threw practically all of the Colts' passes—328. He completed 163 (49.7 percent) for 12 touchdowns but had 17 interceptions, which brought his rating down. Herrmann, selected by Denver in the fourth round of the 1981 draft, had appeared in only two games for the Broncos and had thrown only 60 passes when traded with Hinton to the Colts for the rights to Elway. He had 36 passing attempts for the Colts, completing 50 percent—no touchdowns and three interceptions.

It is, indeed, the time and the place for Herrmann to come into his own.

Pagel has an advantage over Herrmann in quickness afoot. Pagel ran 54 times last season for 441 yards, second most by an NFL quarterback, topped by Cliff Stoudt, then with Pittsburgh.

The second-leading runner for the Colts was fullback Randy McMillan, who in his third year as a pro gained 802 yards (4.1 average). The rushing attack finished second in the NFL, topped by Chicago.

The offensive line was rebuilt and featured only one holdover, center Ray Donaldson. Improvement was evident in the statistics for average yardage rushing per game: 168.4 compared to only 116 yards in '82.

Another major reason for the turnaround from a winless club in 1981 to one with seven victories in 1983 was the opportunistic play of an aggressive defense.

The Colts' young defense—rookie linebacker Vernon Maxwell of Arizona State was one of the standouts—accounted for 36 takeaways (20 interceptions and 16 fumble recoveries) and 41 sacks.

Indianapolis will have few worries about the kicking game.

Rohn Stark, in his second pro year, led the NFL with an average of 45.3 yards on 91 punts.

Placekicker Raul Allegre booted 30 of 35 field-goal attempts and added 22 extra points for a total of 112. That placed him 10th in scoring among NFL kickers and 12th overall.

Allegre, born in Torreon, Mexico, kicked for the University of Texas after two years at the University of Montana. He made 69 percent of his field-goal tries for the Longhorns in two seasons but says, "I was not a very good kicker."

He was not considered a prime prospect by the pros. Nevertheless, he kept practicing after finishing his collegiate eligibility. Ben Agajanian, a pro kicker for 22 years, helped him a great deal. Agajanian noticed Allegre at a clinic he held in Austin.

"The balls he kicked weren't straight or high enough," says Agajanian. He changed Allegre's style, having him take three steps back and two to the side so that he stood at a 90-degree angle to the goal post.

Allegre signed with the Cowboys as a free agent but kicked only once in a preseason game, making good on a 52-yard attempt.

The Cowboys stayed with their veteran, Rafael Septien, but held on to Allegre, hoping to make a deal and pick up an extra draft choice. When the Colts' kicker, Dan Miller, missed two field goals in Baltimore's final preseason game, they acquired Allegre from Dallas.

During the season, Allegre was four for five from 50 yards or farther. He had the third-highest field-goal percentage in the NFL. His average attempt (39.7 yards) and average field goal (39.1 yards) were the highest in the league.

Allegre had signed a standard free-agent contract with the Cowboys, which automatically went with him to Baltimore. He was paid $47,000 last season, barely missing a $15,000 bonus, which he would have received if he had led the league in percentage. If Kush had not asked him to try a record 64-yard field goal, he would have made it.

Indianapolis fans can't wait to see Allegre go for the record in the Hoosier Dome.

END

Athlon's You Be The Coach

JOHN ROBINSON

Football as played in the National Football League is a highly complex game. Play selection is based on many factors: down and distance, the score, remaining time, the defense, the weather and more. Considering all the factors, coaches try to analyze quickly each situation and call the right play.

John Robinson has enjoyed much success as a head coach. Last year, in his first season in the NFL, he was selected NFC Coach of the Year by United Press International. He led the Los Angeles Rams to an overall record of 10-8, including a 24-17 playoff victory over Dallas. In 1981 and 1982, the Rams logged a combined mark of 8-17 with no playoff appearances.

Before joining the Rams' organization, Robinson spent seven years as head coach at Southern California. While at the helm of the Trojan program, his record was 67-14-2 for a winning percentage of .819. Three of his teams won Rose Bowl games.

Here's your chance to match wits with Coach Robinson. In the following make-believe game situations, he's selected the plays he would call. Make your own choices and find out how they compare.

Play 1: San Francisco is at Los Angeles. With 7:20 left in the first half, the Rams have the ball, second down and one yard to go, at the 49er 42-yard line. The Rams lead 7-0.

(a) Play-action fake, bomb to split end on fly pattern.
(b) Halfback off tackle.
(c) Flat pass to tight end.

Play 2: San Francisco is still at Los Angeles. Now the Rams have the ball, first down and 15, at their 32, trailing 13-10 with 3:45 left in the third quarter.

(a) Halfback power sweep.
(b) Pass to split end over the middle.
(c) Play-action fake, deep pass to flanker.

Play 3: Los Angeles, still at home against San Francisco, now trails 20-17 with only 1:20 remaining in the game. With two timeouts left, the Rams have the ball deep in 49er territory at the 11, fourth down and one foot to go.

(a) Field goal.
(b) Quarterback sneak.
(c) Halfback pass to flanker in end zone.

Play 4: With Dallas at Los Angeles, the Cowboys lead 14-10 with 1:35 left in the half. The Rams have possession, second and eight, at the Cowboy 39 with three timeouts remaining.

(a) Sideline pass to split end 10 yards downfield.
(b) Flanker reverse.
(c) Halfback power sweep.

Play 5: Dallas is still at L.A. The Rams now lead 24-21 and have the ball at their own 44, first down and 10 yards to go. Eight minutes are left in the game.

(a) Fullback draw.
(b) Halfback power sweep.
(c) 10-yard sideline pass to tight end.

Play 6: Los Angeles is at New Orleans, leading 14-13 with 2:50 to go in the first half. The Rams are on the attack, third down and seven, at their own 35.

(a) Screen pass to halfback.
(b) Fullback draw.
(c) Pass to flanker over the middle.

Play 7: L.A. and New Orleans are now tied 20-20 with 1:37 remaining in the third quarter. The Rams have the ball at midfield, second and 10.

(a) Halfback power sweep.
(b) Pass to split end over the middle.
(c) Screen pass to halfback.

Play 8: Los Angeles is now trailing New Orleans 30-26 with 2:05 to play. The Rams are on offense at their own 28, second and 10, with three timeouts remaining.

(a) Play-action fake, bomb to split end.
(b) 10-yard sideline pass to tight end.
(c) Pass to flanker over the middle.

Play 9: L.A. is at St. Louis, and the Cardinals lead 21-10 with 45 seconds left in the third quarter. The Rams have the ball with the wind against them at the Cardinal 28, fourth down and one yard to go.

(a) Field goal.
(b) Quarterback sneak.
(c) Halfback power sweep.

Play 10: Still at St. Louis, the Cardinals now lead by one point, 21-20, with 2:00 left in the game. The Rams have the ball, third down and nine, at their own 48, two timeouts remaining.

(a) 10-yard sideline pass to split end.
(b) Screen pass to halfback.
(c) Pass to tight end over the middle.

Play 11: Pittsburgh is at Los Angeles with the Steelers ahead 10-0 and 12 minutes left in the second quarter. The Rams have possession, third down and five, at the Steeler 47.

(a) Halfback draw.
(b) Pass to split end in flat.
(c) Fake inside plunge, pass to tight end over the middle.

Play 12: In the same game, Pittsburgh now leads 24-23 with 3:05 left in the game. The Rams have the ball, fourth and one, at the Steeler 23. Three timeouts remain.

(a) Field goal.
(b) Fullback off tackle.
(c) Halfback power sweep.

END

ANSWERS—1. a (Bomb to split end). 2. a (Halfback power sweep). 3. b (Quarterback sneak). 4. a (Sideline pass to split end). 5. c (Sideline pass to tight end). 6. c (Pass to flanker over the middle). 7. c (Screen pass to halfback). 8. c (Pass to flanker over the middle). 9. c (Halfback power sweep). 10. c (Pass to tight end over the middle). 11. b (Pass to split end in flat). 12. a (Field goal).

Honey Watching

(continued)

Whipping up team spirit for the Raiders is lovely Launa Morosan (above), a speech and foreign language major at Glendale College. We think her charms speak for themselves. Besides being an obvious asset to the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, Laci Folks (bottom left) is an executive secretary who studies dance and enjoys swimming and snow skiing. Houston Oilers dancer Dean El Kurdi (top left) sets a high standard for the Derrick Dolls.

END

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(New Orleans continued)

make the playoffs," says Phillips, "but we feel we accomplished things that will help us reach them in the future. This is a young team that learned how to come from behind and not give up in tight games. If we can get into a position where we need to win the last game for a playoff spot, we ought to have a good chance of getting there next time."

The defense is headed by linebacker Rickey Jackson, who had 11 of a club-record 56 sacks. In addition to Jackson, the Saints also are counting on three other defensive players who were Pro Bowl alternates: strong safety Russell Gary, nose tackle Derland Moore and cornerback Johnnie Poe. The 32-year-old Moore, an 11-year vet, is the only old hand on the defense.

The defense got consistent play up front from Bruce Clark at end; from Jim Kovach, Jackson, Dennis Winston and Whitney Paul at linebacker; and from Poe, Gary and Dave Waymer in the secondary. The Saints finished with 23 interceptions.

The club's three Most Valuable Player choices, based on a vote by the players, reflect the team's youth: running back Wayne Wilson and Kovach, both five-year men, and placekicker Morten Andersen, who was in his second year.

Wilson was the Saints' all-purpose yardage leader for the second straight year, running for 787 yards, catching passes for 178 more and accounting for 11 touchdowns. Wilson also added 239 yards on kickoff returns for a total of 1,204.

Defensive quarterback Kovach led his unit with 251 tackles. He had three sacks and forced three fumbles.

Andersen came through by hitting 18 of 23 field-goal attempts. He provided winning margins against the Bears, Eagles and Falcons. He was 10 for 10 inside the 30, 13 of 14 inside the 40.

If Todd comes through, if Rogers stays healthy, if the defense doesn't suffer major injuries, the Saints could be looking at their first winning season.

Despite injuries, George Rogers rushed for 1,144 yards, the second time in a three-year career he topped the 1000-yard mark.

Phillips is counting on Rogers, Wilson and Hokie Gajan, who had a 5.1 average—best on the team—in 81 carries to carry the rushing attack.

A line that has an All-Pro candidate in guard Brad Edelman and only one oldster, 34-year-old center John Hill, will return intact as will a group of receivers that includes Jeff Groth (49 catches), Hoby Brenner (41), Gene Goodlow (41), Lindsay Scott (24) and Kenny Duckett (19).

If Todd comes through, if Rogers stays healthy, if the defense doesn't suffer major injuries, the Saints could be looking at their first winning season.

"I can't wait to get going," says Todd.

Neither can long-suffering Saints fans.

While there might be medical risks, Wilson and Stabler constitute part of one of the highest-paid quarterback corps in the league: Todd ($600,000), Stabler ($400,000), Wilson ($200,000).

One thing is for sure—the acquisition of Todd brought Phillips out of a deep postseason funk.

He was so depressed following the season-ending loss to the Rams that he lost all interest in the playoffs and didn't watch the games.

But Phillips did watch the Super Bowl, right?

"No."

He and wife Helen were in Las Vegas trying to forget missing the playoffs.

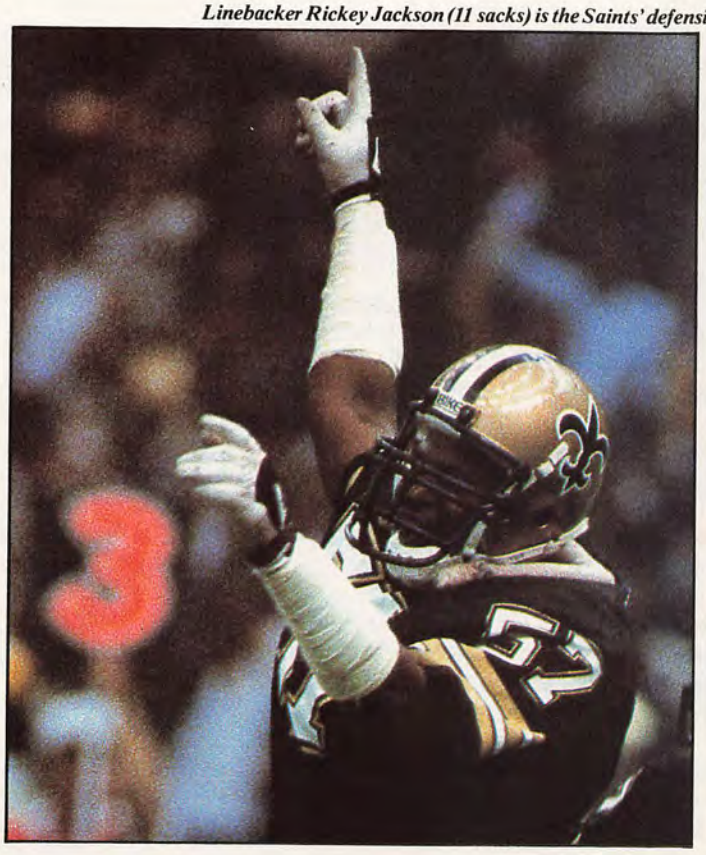
"They had the game on in the casinos," says Bum, "but I didn't watch."

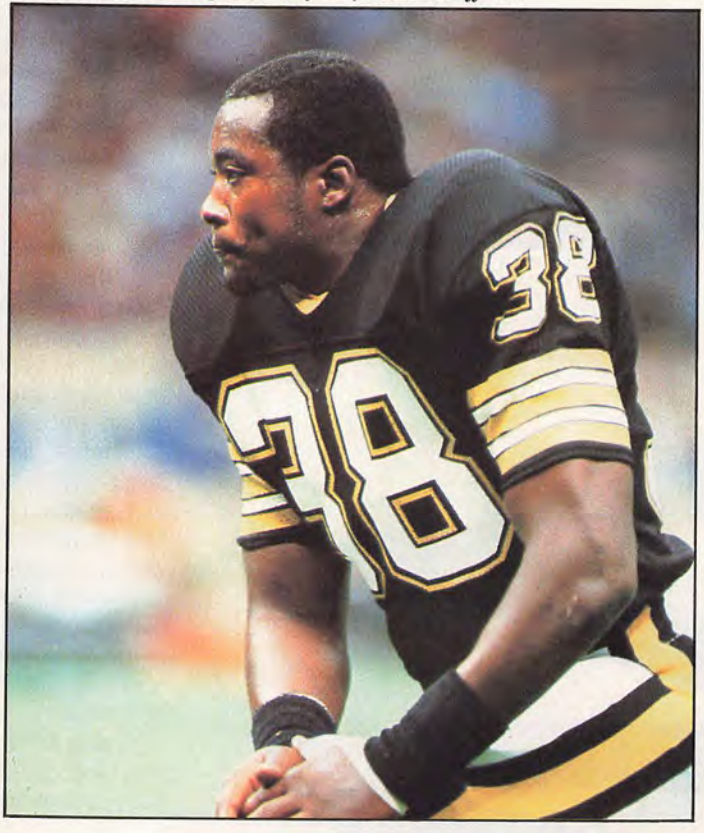
If he didn't watch, what was he doing?

"I was playing the slot machines."

END

Linebacker Rickey Jackson (11 sacks) is the Saints' defensive leader, and George Rogers (1,144 yards) heads the offense.





GIANTS

It was a season of high expectations, but it fell apart even before it had a chance to get under way. The New York Giants, having made it into the strike-shortened 1982 campaign's Super Bowl Tournament, viewed the accomplishment as a stepping stone. In the Big Apple they were, after a long wait, insisting that the once-proud Giants were back.

And the man leading the way was a remarkably talented young runner named Harold "Butch" Woolfolk.

The NFC Offensive Rookie of the Year in '82 was destined, it seemed, to become the force around which the New York attack would rally. But through the first month of his pro sophomore season, he became something of a forgotten man. The tone was set in the first game when he carried the ball only six times, gaining six yards.

"I just couldn't understand why we, as a team, weren't running. I simply felt we had a chance to win if we ran the ball more."

Soon the 6-1, 207-pounder with speed enough to have qualified for the 1980 Olympic Trials in the 200-meter dash was in the office of Coach Bill Parcells, trying to determine what had happened to a promising career.

"Actually," reflects Woolfolk, "I didn't go in to talk about why I wasn't carrying the ball more. I just couldn't understand why we, as a team, weren't running. I simply felt we had a chance to win if we ran the ball more."

The disappointing 3-12-1 season dragged on as too many injuries in too many key areas reduced the Giants' chances of winning. But the running game picked up.

First, Rob Carpenter enjoyed a four-week streak in which he went over the 100-yard mark three times. Woolfolk, meanwhile, continued in a secondary role, carrying the ball only 43 times for 171 yards during the same span.

Then, a knee injury suffered against Detroit sent Carpenter to the sidelines for the year. Add a quarterback situation in shambles and a defense riddled by injury, and you get the dismal picture Parcells was looking at with half a season to play.

With few options left, the bulk of the offensive thrust fell to Woolfolk. Against the Philadelphia Eagles he carried a league record 43 times, matching the aforementioned four-game work load. He gained 159 hard-earned yards. New York won 23-0.

A streak of six defeats and a tie had ended, and Parcells was quick to praise the efforts of the former Michigan All-American. "Butch has finally realized there is more to playing halfback than just running with the football," Parcells said.

What he was saying is that Woolfolk, for all his magnificent abilities as a runner, had lacked maturity in the other areas: blocking, receiving and picking up the blitz in passing situations.

By the season's end, he had captured the Giants' rushing title with 857 yards on 246 carries, averaging 3.5 yards. He caught 28 passes for an additional 368 yards. His blocking improved dramatically.

"Butch improved tremendously," Parcells says. "He is developing into a fine all-around back. I feel that if we can get him a better supporting cast he can become one of the best players in the league.

"That day in Philadelphia showed me a great deal. There was never any intention to get him the ball 43 times—that's asking too much of anyone—but he responded. This season I think you will see him carrying the ball more, maybe as many as 25 times a game. But I don't think we'll ever ask him to do what we did that afternoon at Veterans Stadium."

Woolfolk, more comfortable in his professional role now, says the transition from being the tailback for Michigan to running back for the Giants took more learning than he had expected. "In college," he says, "my job was to carry the football and not much else. There, I could be successful just as a runner. In the pros, you have to do it all.

"I realize now that one week I may be called on to carry the ball a great deal, but the very next week the game plan may call for me to be more active as a receiver. Hopefully, Rob will come back healthy, so I want to be ready to help him more as a blocker.

(continued)

Butch Woolfolk's grip was slipping on his leading role in the Giants' offense until a talk with Coach Bill Parcells.

GIANTS

Linebacker Lawrence Taylor (left) and wide receiver Earnest Gray (below) are extraordinary talents.

(New York Giants continued)

"My goal is to prove myself as an all-around player. If I can do that, I can help this team get back to where it should be."

It is, of course, not a job Woolfolk can do alone. The observation by Parcells about the New York supporting cast is the key. And it is difficult at present to determine just who will be available to get the ball rolling again. Last year alone, no less than 25 Giants went on injured reserve, including Phil Simms, who looked for a while as if he might be the answer to the quarterback merry-go-round.

Parcells has thrown the situation up for grabs again, saying, "It (the position) is not yet finalized."

Last year it went this way: Scott Brunner, since traded to Denver, got the nod but never got the team going. So the call went to Simms. He threw only 13 passes, then was injured. Brunner returned with up-and-down success. The switch was finally made to Jeff Rutledge toward the end of the season.

Ironically, the Giants' offense set team records in four categories last year, but to be effective in the manner Parcells would like, a run-pass balance will need to evolve.

Even with the quarterback turnover, New York established records for total yardage (5,285), most passing yardage (3,491), most pass completions (284) and most first downs (296). All of which proves that statistics do not win football games.

Unless there is a healthy Woolfolk-Carpenter tandem at the running back positions, the Giants could again be a one-dimensional team.

Whoever gets the quarterback job will, no doubt, spend a lot of time getting the ball to wide receiver Earnest Gray, who ranked third in the NFC a year ago with 78 catches for a club record 1,139 yards. Fellow wide receiver John Mistler made impressive strides as well with 45 receptions for 422 yards. Tight end Zeke Mowatt was busy early in the season, hauling in 21 catches before turning his attention to blocking for Woolfolk.

Besides the wide receivers, the backs will stay busy in ball-control pass routes. With Woolfolk improving as a target and Carpenter fit, the offense could be more varied.

Help will have to come up front, however, particularly with the running game. At the end of '83, the starting forward wall consisted of Brad Benson and John Tautolo at tackles, Billy Ard and J.T. Turner at guards and Ernie Hughes at center. The key this time will be a group that can stay healthy enough to work together. Patchwork became the rule rather than the exception due to injury problems last year.

There is also the matter of eliminating turnovers. The offense was able to move most of the season, but progress was often negated because of 27 lost fumbles (half of which occurred inside the opposition's 20-yard line) and 31 interceptions.

Offensively, the Giants are a mixed bag. There is talent and ability to advance the ball in a variety of ways. Consistency, however, will be necessary if they are to turn that into something more than impressive statistics.

The defense ranked second in the NFC a year ago. Three players were selected to the Pro Bowl: linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson and cornerback Mark Haynes.

Even with left inside linebacker Brian Kelley gone to San Diego, the Giants can claim an outstanding front seven. All-Pro Taylor, who led the team with 125 tackles in '83, returns at one outside linebacker spot. Veteran Brad Van Pelt will work the other side. Carson had 96 tackles last year despite sitting out several games with injuries. Healthy again, he could return to All-Pro form. Most likely to inherit the vacancy left by Kelley's departure is Frank Marion, a seven-year veteran.

Up front there's left end George Martin, who was credited with nine sacks; right end Leonard Marshall, who performed well as a rookie; and nose tackle Jerome Sally.

The secondary accounted for 23 interceptions, helping to offset the turnovers.

Right cornerback Terry Jackson had six interceptions, but he's been traded to Seattle. Free safety Terry Kinard, who became a starter as a rookie, had three. Working at the right corner again will be Haynes (three interceptions). Bill Currier returns at strong safety.

Defensively, the Giants would be in trouble if injuries begin to mount. While the starting unit is strong—among the best in the league—the depth is not what Parcells would like.

Ali Haji-Sheikh, who enjoyed a record-setting rookie season, led the Giants in scoring with 127 points (third in the NFL). He hit on 35 of 42 field-goal attempts. Punter Dave Jennings averaged 40.3 yards.

1983 was a year of misfortune for the Giants. But if the quarterback situation stabilizes, turnovers decrease and the injured reserve list doesn't get too lengthy, the Giants' outlook could change.

END

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Master Lock Company

Tough under fire.

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NISSAN

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ATLANTIC COAST

Clemson
Clemson, S.C.
(9-1-1)
S. 8 Virginia *
S. 15 Appalachian St. +
S. 22 Georgia
S. 29 Georgia Tech
O. 6 North Carolina +
O. 20 Duke +
O. 27 North Carolina St.
N. 3 Wake Forest +
N. 10 Virginia Tech +
N. 17 Maryland
N. 24 South Carolina +

Duke University
Durham, N.C.
(3-8-0)
S. 8 Indiana +*
S. 22 South Carolina *
S. 29 Army
O. 6 Virginia +*
O. 13 Virginia Tech
O. 20 Clemson
O. 27 Maryland +
N. 3 Georgia Tech
N. 10 Wake Forest +
N. 17 North Carolina St.
N. 24 North Carolina +

Georgia Tech
Atlanta, Ga.
(3-8-0)
S. 15 Alabama +
S. 22 Citadel +
S. 29 Clemson +
O. 6 North Carolina St. +
O. 13 Virginia *
O. 20 Auburn
O. 27 Tennessee +
N. 3 Duke +
N. 10 North Carolina
N. 17 Wake Forest
D. 1 Georgia

Maryland
College Park, Md.
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Syracuse +
S. 15 Vanderbilt +
S. 22 West Virginia
S. 29 Wake Forest +
O. 6 Penn State
O. 13 North Carolina St. +
O. 27 Duke
N. 3 North Carolina
N. 10 Miami, Fla.
N. 17 Clemson +
N. 24 Virginia

North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.
(8-3-0)
S. 15 Navy +
S. 22 Boston Col. @
S. 29 Kansas +
O. 6 Clemson
O. 13 Wake Forest
O. 20 North Carolina St. +
O. 27 Memphis St. *
N. 3 Maryland +
N. 10 Georgia Tech +
N. 17 Virginia +
N. 24 Duke
@ Foxboro, Mass.

North Carolina State
Raleigh, N.C.
(3-8-0)
S. 8 Ohio +*
S. 15 Furman +*
S. 22 Wake Forest +*
S. 29 East Carolina +*
O. 6 Georgia Tech
O. 13 Maryland
O. 20 North Carolina
O. 27 Clemson +
N. 3 South Carolina +
N. 10 Virginia
N. 17 Duke +

Virginia
Charlottesville, Va.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Clemson +*
S. 15 Va. Military +*
S. 22 Navy
S. 29 Virginia Tech
O. 6 Duke *
O. 13 Georgia Tech +*
O. 20 Wake Forest +
N. 3 West Virginia
N. 10 North Carolina St. +
N. 17 North Carolina
N. 24 Maryland +

Wake Forest
Winston-Salem, N.C.
(4-7-0)
S. 1 Appalachian St. +*
S. 8 Virginia Tech +*
S. 22 North Carolina St. *
S. 29 Maryland
O. 6 Richmond
O. 13 North Carolina +
O. 20 Virginia
O. 27 William & Mary +
N. 3 Clemson
N. 10 Duke
N. 17 Georgia Tech +

BIG EIGHT

Colorado
Boulder, Colo.
(4-7-0)
S. 8 Michigan St. +
S. 15 Oregon
S. 22 Notre Dame
S. 29 UCLA +
O. 6 Missouri
O. 13 Iowa State +
O. 20 Nebraska +
O. 27 Oklahoma St.
N. 3 Kansas +
N. 10 Oklahoma +
N. 17 Kansas St.

Iowa State
Ames, Iowa
(4-7-0)
S. 8 Iowa
S. 15 Drake +
S. 22 Texas A&M *
S. 29 West Texas St. +
O. 6 Kansas
O. 13 Colorado
O. 20 Oklahoma +
O. 27 Missouri
N. 3 Nebraska +
N. 10 Kansas St. +
N. 17 Oklahoma St.

Kansas
Lawrence, Kan.
(4-6-1)
S. 8 Wichita St. +
S. 15 Florida St. +
S. 22 Vanderbilt *
S. 29 North Carolina
O. 6 Iowa St. +
O. 13 Kansas St.
O. 20 Oklahoma St.
O. 27 Oklahoma +
N. 3 Colorado
N. 10 Nebraska +
N. 17 Missouri

Kansas State
Manhattan, Kan.
(5-8-0)
S. 8 Vanderbilt *
S. 15 Tenn. Tech +*
S. 22 Texas Christian *
S. 29 Oklahoma
O. 6 South Carolina
O. 13 Kansas +
O. 20 Missouri +*
O. 27 Nebraska
N. 3 Oklahoma St. +
N. 10 Iowa State
N. 17 Colorado +

Missouri
Columbia, Mo.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 Illinois *
S. 15 Wisconsin +
S. 22 Mississippi St. +
S. 29 Notre Dame +
O. 6 Colorado +
O. 13 Nebraska
O. 20 Kansas St. *
O. 27 Iowa State +
N. 3 Oklahoma
N. 10 Oklahoma St.
N. 17 Kansas +

Nebraska
Lincoln, Neb.
(12-0-0)
S. 8 Wyoming +
S. 15 Minnesota +
S. 22 UCLA
S. 29 Syracuse
O. 6 Oklahoma St. +
O. 13 Missouri +
O. 20 Colorado
O. 27 Kansas St. +
N. 3 Iowa State
N. 10 Kansas
N. 17 Oklahoma +

Oklahoma
Norman, Okla.
(8-4-0)
S. 8 Stanford +
S. 15 Pittsburgh
S. 22 Baylor +
S. 29 Kansas St. +
O. 13 Texas @
O. 20 Iowa State
O. 27 Kansas
N. 3 Missouri +
N. 10 Colorado
N. 17 Nebraska
N. 24 Oklahoma St. +
@ Dallas, Texas

Oklahoma State
Stillwater, Okla.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 Arizona St. *
S. 15 Bowling Green +
S. 22 San Diego St. +
S. 29 Tulsa *
O. 6 Nebraska
O. 20 Kansas +
O. 27 Colorado +
N. 3 Kansas St.
N. 10 Missouri +
N. 17 Iowa State +
N. 24 Oklahoma

BIG TEN

Illinois
Champaign, Ill.
(10-1-0)
S. 1 Northwestern +*
S. 8 Missouri +*
S. 15 Stanford
S. 22 Michigan St. +
S. 29 Iowa
O. 6 Wisconsin +
O. 13 Ohio State
O. 20 Purdue +
O. 27 Michigan
N. 3 Minnesota +
N. 10 Indiana @
@ Indianapolis, Ind

Indiana
Bloomington, Ind.
(3-8-0)
S. 8 Duke *
S. 15 Kentucky +
S. 22 Northwestern
S. 29 Michigan *
O. 6 Minnesota *
O. 13 Michigan St.
O. 20 Wisconsin +
O. 27 Iowa +
N. 3 Ohio State
N. 10 Illinois @
N. 17 Purdue
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
(9-2-0)
S. 8 Iowa State +
S. 15 Penn State +
S. 22 Ohio State
S. 29 Illinois +
O. 6 Northwestern
O. 13 Purdue
O. 20 Michigan +
O. 27 Indiana
N. 3 Wisconsin +
N. 10 Michigan St. +
N. 24 Minnesota *
D. 1 Hawaii *

Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.
(9-2-0)
S. 8 Miami, Fla. +
S. 15 Washington +
S. 22 Wisconsin +
S. 29 Indiana
O. 6 Michigan St. +
O. 13 Northwestern +
O. 20 Iowa
O. 27 Illinois +
N. 3 Purdue
N. 10 Minnesota +
N. 17 Ohio State

Michigan State
East Lansing, Mich.
(4-6-1)
S. 8 Colorado
S. 15 Notre Dame +
S. 22 Illinois
S. 29 Purdue +
O. 6 Michigan
O. 13 Indiana +
O. 20 Ohio State +
O. 27 Minnesota *
N. 3 Northwestern +
N. 10 Iowa
N. 17 Wisconsin +

Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn.
(1-10-0)
S. 8 Rice +*
S. 15 Nebraska
S. 22 Purdue
S. 29 Ohio State +*
O. 6 Indiana +*
O. 13 Wisconsin
O. 20 Northwestern +*
O. 27 Michigan St. +*
N. 3 Illinois
N. 10 Michigan
N. 24 Iowa +*

Northwestern
Evanston, Ill.
(2-9-0)
S. 1 Illinois *
S. 8 Washington
S. 15 Syracuse +
S. 22 Indiana +
S. 29 Wisconsin
O. 6 Iowa +
O. 13 Michigan
O. 20 Minnesota *
O. 27 Purdue +
N. 3 Michigan St.
N. 10 Ohio State +

Ohio State
Columbus, Ohio
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Oregon St. +
S. 15 Washington St. +
S. 22 Iowa +
S. 29 Minnesota *
O. 6 Purdue
O. 13 Illinois +
O. 20 Michigan St.
O. 27 Wisconsin
N. 3 Indiana +
N. 10 Northwestern
N. 17 Michigan +

Purdue
West Lafayette, Ind.
(3-7-1)
S. 8 Notre Dame @
S. 15 Miami, Fla. +
S. 22 Minnesota +
S. 29 Michigan St.
O. 6 Ohio State +
O. 13 Iowa +
O. 20 Illinois
O. 27 Northwestern
N. 3 Michigan +
N. 10 Wisconsin
N. 17 Indiana +
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Wisconsin
Madison, Wis.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 Northern Ill. +
S. 15 Missouri
S. 22 Michigan
S. 29 Northwestern +
O. 6 Illinois
O. 13 Minnesota +
O. 20 Indiana
O. 27 Ohio State +
N. 3 Iowa
N. 10 Purdue +
N. 17 Michigan St.

EASTERN INDEPENDENTS

Army
West Point, N.Y.
(2-9-0)
S. 15 Colgate +
S. 22 Tennessee
S. 29 Duke +
O. 6 Harvard +
O. 13 Rutgers @
O. 20 Pennsylvania +
O. 27 Syracuse
N. 3 Air Force +
N. 10 Boston Col.
N. 17 Montana %
D. 1 Navy ¢
@ East Rutherford, N.J.
% Tokyo, Japan
¢ Philadelphia, Pa.

Boston College
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
(9-2-0)
S. 1 Western Caro. +*
S. 8 Alabama *
S. 22 North Carolina @
S. 29 Miami, Fla.
O. 13 Temple +*
O. 20 West Virginia
O. 27 Rutgers +
N. 3 Penn State
N. 10 Army +
N. 17 Syracuse @
N. 24 Holy Cross
@ Foxboro, Mass.

Navy
Annapolis, Md.
(3-8-0)
S. 15 North Carolina
S. 22 Virginia +
S. 29 Arkansas @*
O. 6 Air Force
O. 13 Lehigh +
O. 20 Princeton +
O. 27 Pittsburgh
N. 3 Notre Dame %
N. 10 Syracuse
N. 17 South Carolina +
D. 1 Army ¢
@ Little Rock, Ark.
% East Rutherford, N.J.
¢ Philadelphia, Pa.

Penn State
University Park, Pa.
(7-4-1)
S. 8 Rutgers +
S. 15 Iowa
S. 22 William & Mary +
S. 29 Texas @
O. 6 Maryland +
O. 13 Alabama
O. 20 Syracuse +
O. 27 West Virginia
N. 3 Boston Col. +
N. 17 Notre Dame
N. 24 Pittsburgh +
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pa.
(8-2-1)
S. 1 Brigham Young +
S. 15 Oklahoma +
S. 22 Temple
S. 29 West Virginia +
O. 6 East Carolina +
O. 13 South Carolina
O. 20 Miami, Fla.
O. 27 Navy +
N. 3 Syracuse
N. 10 Tulane +
N. 24 Penn State

Rutgers
New Brunswick, N.J.
(3-8-0)
S. 8 Penn State
S. 15 Temple +
S. 22 Syracuse *
S. 29 Cincinnati +
O. 6 Kentucky *
O. 13 Army @
O. 20 Louisville +
O. 27 Boston Col.
N. 10 West Virginia @
N. 17 Colgate +
N. 24 Miami, Fla.
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

Syracuse
Syracuse, N.Y.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Maryland
S. 15 Northwestern
S. 22 Rutgers +*
S. 29 Nebraska +
O. 6 Florida
O. 13 West Virginia
O. 20 Penn State
O. 27 Army +
N. 3 Pittsburgh +
N. 10 Navy +
N. 17 Boston Col. @
@ Foxboro, Mass.

Temple
Philadelphia, Pa.
(4-7-0)
S. 8 East Carolina *
S. 15 Rutgers
S. 22 Pittsburgh +
S. 29 Florida St. *
O. 6 William & Mary
O. 13 Boston Col. *
O. 20 Delaware +
O. 27 Virginia Tech +*
N. 3 Cincinnati +
N. 17 West Virginia +
N. 30 Toledo @*
@ Atlantic City, N.J.

West Virginia
Morgantown, W.Va.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Ohio +
S. 8 Louisville +
S. 15 Virginia Tech
S. 22 Maryland +
S. 29 Pittsburgh
O. 13 Syracuse +
O. 20 Boston Col. +
O. 27 Penn State +
N. 3 Virginia +
N. 10 Rutgers @
N. 17 Temple
@ East Rutherford, N.J.

PAC TEN

Arizona
Tucson, Ariz.
(7-3-1)
S. 1 Fresno St. +*
S. 8 California +*
S. 15 Oregon St. @*
S. 22 Louisiana St. *
S. 29 Long Beach St. +*
O. 6 Oregon +*
O. 20 Southern Cal
O. 27 Washington
N. 3 Utah State +*
N. 10 Stanford +*
N. 24 Arizona St. +*
@ Portland, Ore.

Arizona State
Tempe, Ariz.
(6-4-1)
S. 8 Oklahoma St. +*
S. 15 San Jose St. +*
S. 22 Southern Cal +*
S. 29 Stanford
O. 6 California +*
O. 20 Oregon St. +*
O. 27 UCLA +*
N. 3 Florida St. +*
N. 10 Oregon
N. 17 Colorado St. +*
N. 24 Arizona *

California
Berkeley, Calif.
(5-5-1)
S. 8 Arizona *
S. 15 Pacific, Cal. +
S. 22 Oregon +
S. 29 San Jose St. +
O. 6 Arizona St. *
O. 13 Oregon St.
O. 20 UCLA +
O. 27 Southern Cal
N. 3 Washington
N. 10 Washington St. +
N. 17 Stanford +

Oregon
Eugene, Ore.
(4-6-1)
S. 8 Long Beach St. +
S. 15 Colorado +
S. 22 California
S. 29 Pacific, Cal. +
O. 6 Arizona *
O. 13 Southern Cal +
O. 20 Washington
O. 27 Washington St. +
N. 3 UCLA
N. 10 Arizona St. +
N. 17 Oregon St.

Oregon State
Corvallis, Ore.
(2-8-1)
S. 8 Ohio State
S. 15 Arizona @*
S. 22 Wyoming +*
S. 29 Idaho *
O. 6 Washington +
O. 13 California +
O. 20 Arizona St. *
O. 27 Stanford +
N. 3 Washington St.
N. 10 UCLA
N. 17 Oregon +
@ Portland, Ore.

Southern Cal
Los Angeles, Calif.
(4-6-1)
S. 8 Utah State +
S. 22 Arizona St. *
S. 29 Louisiana St. +
O. 6 Washington St.
O. 13 Oregon
O. 20 Arizona +
O. 27 California +
N. 3 Stanford
N. 10 Washington +
N. 17 UCLA
N. 24 Notre Dame +

Stanford
Stanford, Calif.
(1-10-0)
S. 8 Oklahoma
S. 15 Illinois +
S. 22 San Jose St. +
S. 29 Arizona St. +
O. 6 UCLA
O. 13 Washington +
O. 20 Washington St. +
O. 27 Oregon St.
N. 3 Southern Cal +
N. 10 Arizona *
N. 17 California

UCLA
Los Angeles, Calif.
(6-4-1)
S. 8 San Diego St. *
S. 15 Long Beach St. +
S. 22 Nebraska +
S. 29 Colorado
O. 6 Stanford +
O. 13 Washington St. +
O. 20 California
O. 27 Arizona St. *
N. 3 Oregon +
N. 10 Oregon St. +
N. 17 Southern Cal +

Washington
Seattle, Wash.
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Northwestern +
S. 15 Michigan
S. 22 Houston +
S. 29 Miami, O. +
O. 6 Oregon St.
O. 13 Stanford
O. 20 Oregon +
O. 27 Arizona +
N. 3 California +
N. 10 Southern Cal
N. 17 Washington St.

Washington St.
Pullman, Wash.
(7-4-0)
S. 1 Tennessee
S. 8 Utah +
S. 15 Ohio State
S. 22 Ball State +
O. 6 Southern Cal +
O. 13 UCLA
O. 20 Stanford
O. 27 Oregon
N. 3 Oregon St. +
N. 10 California
N. 17 Washington +

SOUTHEASTERN

Alabama
University, Ala.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 Boston Col. %*
S. 15 Georgia Tech
S. 22 SW Louisiana +
S. 29 Vanderbilt +
O. 6 Georgia %
O. 13 Penn State +
O. 20 Tennessee
N. 3 Mississippi St. @
N. 10 Louisiana St. %
N. 17 Cincinnati
D. 1 Auburn %
@ Jackson, Miss.
% Birmingham, Ala.

Auburn
Auburn, Ala.
(10-1-0)
A. 27 Miami, Fla. @*
S. 15 Texas *
S. 22 Southern Miss +*
S. 29 Tennessee +
O. 6 Mississippi
O. 13 Florida St. *
O. 20 Georgia Tech +
O. 27 Mississippi St.
N. 3 Florida
N. 10 Cincinnati +
N. 17 Georgia +
D. 1 Alabama ¢
@ East Rutherford, N.J.
¢ Birmingham, Ala.

Florida
Gainesville, Fla.
(8-2-1)
S. 1 Miami, Fla. @*
S. 8 Louisiana St. +
S. 15 Tulane +
S. 29 Mississippi St. +
O. 6 Syracuse +
O. 13 Tennessee
O. 20 Cincinnati +
N. 3 Auburn +
N. 10 Georgia %
N. 17 Kentucky
D. 1 Florida St. *
@ Tampa, Fla.
% Jacksonville, Fla.

Georgia
Athens, Ga.
(9-1-1)
S. 8 Southern Miss. +
S. 22 Clemson +
S. 29 South Carolina *
O. 6 Alabama
O. 13 Mississippi +
O. 20 Vanderbilt +
O. 27 Kentucky *
N. 3 Memphis St. +
N. 10 Florida @
N. 17 Auburn
D. 1 Georgia Tech +
@ Jacksonville, Fla.

Kentucky
Lexington, Ky.
(6-4-1)
S. 8 Kent State +
S. 15 Indiana
S. 22 Tulane *
O. 6 Rutgers +*
O. 13 Mississippi St.
O. 20 Louisiana St. +*
O. 27 Georgia +*
N. 3 North Texas St. +
N. 10 Vanderbilt +
N. 17 Florida +
N. 24 Tennessee

Louisiana State
Baton Rouge, La.
(4-7-0)
S. 8 Florida
S. 15 Wichita St. +*
S. 22 Arizona +*
S. 29 Southern Cal
O. 13 Vanderbilt +*
O. 20 Kentucky *
O. 27 Notre Dame +*
N. 3 Mississippi +*
N. 10 Alabama
N. 17 Mississippi St.
N. 24 Tulane +*

Mississippi
University, Miss.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Memphis St. +
S. 15 Arkansas @*
S. 22 Louisiana Tech +
S. 29 Tulane +
O. 6 Auburn +
O. 13 Georgia
O. 20 Southern Miss %
O. 27 Vanderbilt
N. 3 Louisiana St. *
N. 17 Tennessee %
N. 24 Mississippi St. %
@ Little Rock, Ark.
% Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi State
Mississippi State, Miss.
(3-8-0)
S. 1 Tulane *
S. 8 Colorado St. +
S. 22 Missouri
S. 29 Florida
O. 6 Southern Miss @
O. 13 Kentucky +
O. 20 Memphis St. *
O. 27 Auburn +
N. 3 Alabama @
N. 17 Louisiana St. +
N. 24 Mississippi @
@ Jackson, Miss.

Tennessee
Knoxville, Tenn.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Washington St. +
S. 15 Utah +
S. 22 Army +
S. 29 Auburn
O. 13 Florida +
O. 20 Alabama +
O. 27 Georgia Tech
N. 10 Memphis St. +
N. 17 Mississippi @
N. 24 Kentucky +
D. 1 Vanderbilt
@ Jackson, Miss.

Vanderbilt
Nashville, Tenn.
(2-9-0)
S. 8 Kansas St. +*
S. 15 Maryland
S. 22 Kansas +*
S. 29 Alabama
O. 6 Tulane +*
O. 13 Louisiana St. *
O. 20 Georgia
O. 27 Mississippi +
N. 10 Kentucky
N. 17 Virginia Tech +
D. 1 Tennessee +

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas
Fayetteville, Ark.
(6-5-0)
S. 15 Mississippi @*
S. 22 Tulsa +
S. 29 Navy @*
O. 6 Texas Christian +
O. 13 Texas Tech @*
O. 20 Texas
O. 27 Houston
N. 3 Rice @*
N. 10 Baylor
N. 17 Texas A&M +
N. 24 Southern Meth.
@ Little Rock, Ark.

Baylor
Waco, Texas
(7-3-1)
S. 8 Brigham Young
S. 22 Oklahoma
S. 29 Texas Tech *
O. 6 Houston +*
O. 13 Southern Meth. +*
O. 20 Texas A&M
O. 27 Texas Christian
N. 3 New Mexico +
N. 10 Arkansas +
N. 17 Rice
N. 24 Texas +

Houston
Houston, Texas
(4-7-0)
S. 15 Miami, O. +*
S. 22 Washington
S. 29 Louisville +*
O. 6 Baylor *
O. 13 Texas A&M +*
O. 20 Southern Meth.
O. 27 Arkansas +
N. 3 Texas Christian +*
N. 10 Texas
N. 24 Texas Tech
D. 1 Rice +*

Rice
Houston, Texas
(1-10-0)
S. 8 Minnesota *
S. 22 Lamar +*
O. 6 Texas +*
O. 13 Texas Christian *
O. 20 Texas Tech +*
O. 27 Texas A&M
N. 3 Arkansas @*
N. 10 Southern Meth. +
N. 17 Baylor +
D. 1 Houston *
@ Little Rock, Ark.

Southern Methodist
Dallas, Texas
(10-1-0)
S. 15 Louisville *
S. 22 North Texas St. +*
S. 29 Texas Christian +*
O. 13 Baylor *
O. 20 Houston +
O. 27 Texas
N. 3 Texas A&M +
N. 10 Rice
N. 17 Texas Tech
N. 24 Arkansas +
D. 1 Nevada-Las Vegas *

Texas
Austin, Texas
(11-0-0)
S. 15 Auburn +*
S. 29 Penn State %
O. 6 Rice *
O. 13 Oklahoma @
O. 20 Arkansas +
O. 27 Southern Meth. +
N. 3 Texas Tech
N. 10 Houston +
N. 17 Texas Christian
N. 24 Baylor
D. 1 Texas A&M +
% East Rutherford, N.J.
@ Dallas, Texas

Texas A&M
College Station, Texas
(5-5-1)
S. 1 Texas-El Paso +*
S. 22 Iowa State +*
S. 29 Arkansas St. +*
O. 6 Texas Tech +
O. 13 Houston *
O. 20 Baylor +
O. 27 Rice +
N. 3 Southern Meth.
N. 17 Arkansas
N. 24 Texas Christian +
D. 1 Texas

Texas Christian
Fort Worth, Texas
(1-8-2)
S. 15 Utah State
S. 22 Kansas St. +*
S. 29 Southern Meth. *
O. 6 Arkansas
O. 13 Rice +*
O. 20 North Texas St. +
O. 27 Baylor +
N. 3 Houston *
N. 10 Texas Tech +
N. 17 Texas +
N. 24 Texas A&M

Texas Tech
Lubbock, Texas
(3-7-1)
S. 15 Texas-Arlington +*
S. 22 New Mexico *
S. 29 Baylor +*
O. 6 Texas A&M
O. 13 Arkansas @*
O. 20 Rice *
O. 27 Tulsa +
N. 3 Texas +
N. 10 Texas Christian
N. 17 Southern Meth. +
N. 24 Houston +
@ Little Rock, Ark.

WESTERN ATHLETIC

Air Force
Academy, Colo.
(9-2-0)
S. 1 San Diego St. +
S. 8 Northern Colo. +
S. 15 Wyoming
S. 22 Utah *
S. 29 Colorado St. +
O. 6 Navy +
O. 13 Notre Dame
O. 20 Brigham Young +
N. 3 Army
N. 10 New Mexico *
N. 24 Texas-El Paso *

Brigham Young
Provo, Utah
(10-1-0)
S. 1 Pittsburgh
S. 8 Baylor +
S. 15 Tulsa +
S. 22 Hawaii *
O. 6 Colorado St.
O. 13 Wyoming +
O. 20 Air Force
O. 27 New Mexico *
N. 3 Texas-El Paso +
N. 10 San Diego St. +
N. 17 Utah
N. 24 Utah State +

Colorado State
Fort Collins, Colo.
(5-7-0)
S. 8 Mississippi St.
S. 15 Hawaii +
S. 22 Fullerton St. +
S. 29 Air Force
O. 6 Brigham Young +
O. 13 New Mexico *
O. 20 San Diego St. *
O. 27 Wyoming +
N. 3 Utah
N. 10 Texas-El Paso +
N. 17 Arizona St. *

Hawaii
Honolulu, HI
(5-5-1)
S. 8 Fullerton St. +*
S. 15 Colorado St.
S. 22 Brigham Young +*
S. 29 Nevada-Las Vegas +*
O. 6 Fresno St. +*
O. 13 Texas-El Paso *
O. 20 Utah +*
O. 27 San Diego St. +*
N. 3 Wyoming +*
N. 24 New Mexico +*
D. 1 Iowa +*

New Mexico
Albuquerque, N.M.
(6-6-0)
S. 8 New Mexico St. +*
S. 15 West Texas St. +*
S. 22 Texas Tech +*
S. 29 Texas-El Paso *
O. 5 Utah *
O. 13 Colorado St. +*
O. 20 Wyoming
O. 27 Brigham Young +*
N. 3 Baylor
N. 10 Air Force +*
N. 17 San Diego St.
N. 24 Hawaii *

San Diego State
San Diego, Calif.
(2-9-1)
S. 1 Air Force
S. 8 UCLA +*
S. 15 Texas-El Paso +*
S. 22 Oklahoma St.
O. 6 Wyoming
O. 13 Utah +*
O. 20 Colorado St. +*
O. 27 Hawaii *
N. 3 Nevada-Las Vegas +*
N. 10 Brigham Young
N. 17 New Mexico +*
N. 24 Long Beach St. +*

Texas-El Paso
El Paso, Texas
(2-10-0)
S. 1 Texas A&M *
S. 8 Idaho St. +*
S. 15 San Diego St. *
S. 29 New Mexico +*
O. 6 New Mexico St. *
O. 13 Hawaii +*
O. 27 Utah
N. 3 Brigham Young
N. 10 Colorado St.
N. 17 Wyoming +*
N. 24 Air Force +*

Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
(5-6-0)
S. 1 Weber St. +*
S. 8 Washington St.
S. 15 Tennessee
S. 22 Air Force +*
S. 29 Wyoming
O. 5 New Mexico +*
O. 13 San Diego St. *
O. 20 Hawaii *
O. 27 Texas-El Paso +
N. 3 Colorado St. +
N. 10 Utah State
N. 17 Brigham Young +

Wyoming
Laramie, Wyo.
(7-5-0)
S. 1 South Dakota +
S. 8 Nebraska
S. 15 Air Force +
S. 22 Oregon St. *
S. 29 Utah +
O. 6 San Diego St. +
O. 13 Brigham Young
O. 20 New Mexico +
O. 27 Colorado St.
N. 3 Hawaii *
N. 10 South Dakota St. +
N. 17 Texas-El Paso *

(Television may cause changes in some schedules after Athlon's publication date. 1983 records do not include bowl games.)

INDEPENDENTS AND OTHER CONFERENCES

Akron
Akron, Ohio
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Kent State
S. 8 Cincinnati
S. 15 Western Ky. +*
S. 22 Eastern Ky. +*
S. 29 Middle Tenn.
O. 6 Central Florida *
O. 13 Morehead St. +*
O. 20 Murray St.
O. 27 Tenn. Tech +*
N. 3 Youngstown St. *
N. 17 Austin Peay +

Appalachian St.
Boone, N.C.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 Wake Forest *
S. 8 Western Ky.
S. 15 Clemson
S. 22 East Tenn. St. +
S. 29 Va. Military
O. 6 Western Caro. +
O. 13 Marshall
O. 20 Furman +
O. 27 Citadel +
N. 10 Tenn.-Chattanooga

Arkansas St.
State University, Ark.
(5-5-1)
S. 1 Memphis St. *
S. 8 Tenn.-Chattanooga *
S. 15 Tenn.-Martin +*
S. 22 Southern Ill.
S. 29 Texas A&M *
O. 6 North Texas St. +*
O. 13 Louisiana Tech *
O. 20 McNeese St. +*
O. 27 Texas-Arlington *
N. 10 Lamar +*
N. 17 NE Louisiana +*

Austin Peay
Clarksville, Tenn.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Tenn-Martin +*
S. 15 Kentucky St. +*
S. 22 Nicholls St. *
S. 29 Eastern Ky. +*
O. 6 Morehead St. +*
O. 13 Youngstown St. +*
O. 20 Middle Tenn.
O. 27 Central Florida *
N. 3 Murray St.
N. 10 Tenn. Tech +
N. 17 Akron

Ball State
Muncie, Ind.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 Massachusetts
S. 8 Toledo +
S. 15 Ohio +
S. 22 Washington St.
S. 29 Northern Ill. *
O. 6 Indiana St. @
O. 13 Kent State +
O. 20 Western Mich. +
O. 27 Eastern Mich. *
N. 3 Bowling Green +
N. 10 Central Mich.
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Boise State
Boise, Idaho
(6-5-0)
S. 1 Fullerton St. +*
S. 8 Fresno St. +*
S. 22 Nevada-Reno +*
S. 29 Eastern Wash. +*
O. 6 Idaho State *
O. 13 Northern Ariz. *
O. 20 Montana +*
O. 27 Montana St.
N. 3 Cal Poly SLO *
N. 10 Weber St. +
N. 17 Idaho +

Boston
Boston, Mass.
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Grambling @
S. 15 Morgan St. +
S. 22 New Hampshire
S. 29 Maine +*
O. 6 Delaware +
O. 13 William & Mary
O. 20 Rhode Island
O. 27 Massachusetts +
N. 3 Holy Cross +
N. 10 Connecticut
N. 17 Va. Military
@ New York, N.Y.

Bowling Green St.
Bowling Green, Ohio
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Richmond +
S. 15 Oklahoma St.
S. 22 Miami, O.
S. 29 Eastern Mich. +
O. 6 Toledo *
O. 13 Western Mich. +
O. 20 Northern Ill. +
O. 27 Central Mich.
N. 3 Ball State
N. 10 Ohio +
N. 17 Kent State

Brown
Providence, R.I.
(4-5-1)
S. 22 Yale +
S. 29 Rhode Island +
O. 6 Princeton
O. 13 Pennsylvania +
O. 20 Cornell
O. 27 Holy Cross +
N. 3 Harvard
N. 10 Dartmouth +
N. 17 Columbia

Bucknell
Lewisburg, Pa.
(4-5-1)
S. 8 Indiana, Pa. +*
S. 15 Carnegie-Mellon +
S. 22 Northeastern
S. 29 Princeton
O. 6 Cornell +
O. 13 New Hampshire
O. 20 Davidson
N. 3 Lafayette +
N. 10 Lehigh
N. 17 Delaware

Central Michigan
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Northern Mich. +
S. 15 East Carolina +
S. 22 Western Mich. +
S. 29 Kent State
O. 6 Eastern Mich. *
O. 13 Ohio +
O. 20 Miami, O.
O. 27 Bowling Green +
N. 3 Northern Ill.
N. 10 Ball State +
N. 17 Toledo +

Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio
(4-6-1)
S. 8 Akron +
S. 15 Youngstown St. +
S. 22 Memphis St. *
S. 29 Rutgers
O. 13 Miami, Fla. +
O. 20 Florida
O. 27 Louisville +
N. 3 Temple
N. 10 Auburn
N. 17 Alabama +
N. 22 Miami, O. +

The Citadel
Charleston, S.C.
(3-8-0)
S. 8 South Carolina *
S. 15 Presbyterian +*
S. 22 Georgia Tech
S. 29 East Tenn. St. +*
O. 6 Davidson
O. 13 Western Caro.
O. 20 Marshall +
O. 27 Appalachian St.
N. 3 Va. Military +
N. 10 Wofford +
N. 17 Furman

Coast Guard
New London, Conn.
(4-6-0)
S. 8 Western Conn. +*
S. 15 Rensselaer Poly +
S. 22 WPI
S. 29 Norwich
O. 6 Wesleyan +
O. 13 Marist
O. 20 Union, N.Y.
O. 27 Trinity, Conn. +
N. 3 Merchant Marine

Colgate
Hamilton, N.Y.
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Connecticut +
S. 15 Army
S. 22 Lehigh
S. 29 Cornell
O. 13 Holy Cross +
O. 20 Lafayette +
O. 27 Columbia
N. 3 Richmond
N. 10 William & Mary +
N. 17 Rutgers

Columbia
New York, N.Y.
(1-7-2)
S. 22 Harvard +
S. 29 Lafayette +
O. 6 Pennsylvania
O. 13 Princeton +
O. 20 Yale
O. 27 Colgate +
N. 3 Dartmouth
N. 10 Cornell +
N. 17 Brown +

Connecticut
Storrs, Conn.
(5-6-0)
S. 8 Colgate
S. 15 Lehigh +
S. 22 Morgan St. +
S. 29 Yale
O. 6 New Hampshire
O. 13 Lafayette
O. 20 Holy Cross
O. 27 Maine +
N. 3 Massachusetts
N. 10 Boston U. +
N. 17 Rhode Island +

Cornell
Ithaca, N.Y.
(3-6-1)
S. 22 Princeton +
S. 29 Colgate +
O. 6 Bucknell
O. 13 Harvard
O. 20 Brown +
O. 27 Dartmouth +
N. 3 Yale
N. 10 Columbia
N. 17 Pennsylvania +

Dartmouth
Hanover, N.H.
(4-5-1)
S. 22 Pennsylvania +
S. 29 New Hampshire +
O. 6 Holy Cross
O. 13 Yale
O. 20 Harvard +
O. 27 Cornell
N. 3 Columbia +
N. 10 Brown
N. 17 Princeton

Davidson
Davidson, N.C.
(2-8-0)
S. 8 Western Caro. *
S. 15 Guilford +
S. 22 Newberry +
S. 29 Pennsylvania
O. 6 Citadel +
O. 13 James Madison +
O. 20 Bucknell +
O. 27 Wofford +
N. 3 Furman
N. 10 Catawba

Delaware
Newark, Del.
(4-7-0)
S. 8 James Madison +
S. 15 William & Mary +
S. 22 West Chester +
S. 29 Lehigh
O. 6 Boston U.
O. 13 Maine +
O. 20 Temple
O. 27 Towson St. +
N. 3 Morgan St. +
N. 10 Massachusetts +
N. 17 Bucknell +

Drake
Des Moines, Iowa
(1-10-1)
S. 1 SW Missouri +
S. 8 Northern Iowa +
S. 15 Iowa State
S. 22 New Mexico St. +
S. 29 Illinois St.
O. 6 NE Missouri +
O. 13 Western Ill. +
O. 27 Wichita St. +
N. 3 Southern Ill. +
N. 17 West Texas St.

East Carolina
Greenville, N.C.
(3-8-0)
S. 1 Florida St. *
S. 8 Temple +*
S. 15 Central Mich.
S. 22 Ga. Southern +
S. 29 North Carolina St. *
O. 6 Pittsburgh
O. 13 Tulsa *
O. 20 East Tenn. St. +
O. 27 South Carolina
N. 3 SW Louisiana
N. 10 Southern Miss. +

Eastern Kentucky
Richmond, Ky.
(7-2-1)
S. 8 Youngstown St. +
S. 15 East Tenn. St. *
S. 22 Akron *
S. 29 Austin Peay *
O. 6 Middle Tenn. +
O. 13 Central Florida +
O. 20 Western Ky.
O. 27 Murray St. +
N. 3 Tenn. Tech
N. 10 Morehead St. +
N. 17 Florida A&M +

Eastern Michigan
Ypsilanti, Mich.
(1-10-0)
S. 1 Youngstown St.
S. 15 Marshall *
S. 22 Ohio +*
S. 29 Bowling Green
O. 6 Central Mich. +*
O. 13 Northern Ill.
O. 20 Toledo *
O. 27 Ball State +*
N. 3 Kent State +*
N. 10 Miami, O.
N. 17 Western Mich. +*

East Tennessee St.
Johnson City, Tenn.
(3-8-0)
S. 8 Tenn. Tech *
S. 15 Eastern Ky. +*
S. 22 Appalachian St.
S. 29 Citadel *
O. 6 Tenn.-Chattanooga
O. 13 Furman +*
O. 20 East Carolina
O. 27 James Madison
N. 3 Ga. Southern +
N. 10 Western Caro. +
N. 17 Marshall +

Florida State
Tallahassee, Fla.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 East Carolina +*
S. 15 Kansas
S. 22 Miami, Fla.
S. 29 Temple +*
O. 6 Memphis St. *
O. 13 Auburn +*
O. 20 Tulane +*
N. 3 Arizona St. *
N. 10 South Carolina
N. 17 Tenn.-Chattanooga +*
D. 1 Florida +*

Fresno State
Fresno, Calif.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 Arizona *
S. 8 Boise St. *
S. 15 Cal Poly SLO +*
S. 22 Long Beach St. +*
S. 29 New Mexico St. +*
O. 6 Hawaii +
O. 20 Utah State +*
O. 27 San Jose St. *
N. 3 Fullerton St.
N. 10 Pacific, Cal. +
N. 17 Montana St. +
N. 24 Nevada-Las Vegas *

Fullerton St.
Fullerton, Calif.
(7-4-0)
S. 1 Boise St. *
S. 8 Hawaii *
S. 15 Idaho +
S. 22 Colorado St.
S. 29 Utah State +
O. 6 Pacific, Cal. *
O. 13 San Jose St. +
O. 20 Nevada-Reno
O. 27 Long Beach St.
N. 3 Fresno St. +
N. 10 Nevada-Las Vegas *
N. 17 New Mexico St.

Furman
Greenville, S.C.
(9-1-1)
S. 1 South Carolina St. +
S. 8 Newberry +
S. 15 North Carolina St. *
S. 22 Marshall *
S. 29 Tenn.-Chattanooga *
O. 13 East Tenn. St. *
O. 20 Appalachian St.
O. 27 Western Caro. +
N. 3 Davidson +
N. 10 Central Florida +
N. 17 Citadel +

Grambling
Grambling, La.
(8-1-2)
S. 1 Alcorn St.
S. 8 Boston U. @
S. 22 Bethune-Cookman +*
S. 29 Prairie View
O. 6 Tennessee St. +*
O. 13 Miss. Valley St. *
O. 20 Jackson St. +*
O. 27 Tex. Southern *
N. 3 Alabama St. +*
N. 10 South Carolina St.
N. 24 Southern U. %
@ New York, N.Y.
+ Indianapolis, Ind.
% New Orleans, La.

Harvard
Cambridge, Mass.
(6-2-2)
S. 22 Columbia
S. 29 Holy Cross +
O. 6 Army
O. 13 Cornell +
O. 20 Dartmouth
O. 27 Princeton
N. 3 Brown +
N. 10 Pennsylvania
N. 17 Yale +

Holy Cross
Worcester, Mass..
(9-1-1)
S. 15 Rhode Island +
S. 22 Massachusetts +
S. 29 Harvard
O. 6 Dartmouth +
O. 13 Colgate
O. 20 Connecticut +
O. 27 Brown
N. 3 Boston U.
N. 10 New Hampshire +
N. 17 Maine
N. 24 Boston Col. +

Idaho
Moscow, Idaho
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Portland St. +*
S. 15 Fullerton St.
S. 22 Montana St. +*
S. 29 Oregon St. +*
O. 6 Nevada-Reno
O. 13 Weber St. +
O. 20 Eastern Wash. @
O. 27 Montana
N. 3 Northern Ariz. +*
N. 10 Idaho St. +
N. 17 Boise St.
@ Spokane, Wash.

Idaho State
Pocatello, Idaho
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Texas-El Paso *
S. 15 Chico St. +*
S. 22 Montana +*
S. 29 Montana St.
O. 6 Boise St. +*
O. 13 Nevada-Las Vegas *
O. 20 Northern Ariz. *
O. 27 Eastern Wash. +*
N. 3 Weber St.
N. 10 Idaho
N. 17 Nevada-Reno +*

Illinois St.
Normal, Ill.
(6-4-1)
S. 1 Lincoln, Mo. +*
S. 8 Southern Ill. +*
S. 15 Western Mich.
S. 22 Indiana St.
S. 29 Drake +
O. 6 Eastern Ill.
O. 20 Central Florida *
O. 27 Western Ill.
N. 3 Tulsa +
N. 10 Marshall +
N. 17 Wichita St.

Indiana St.
Terre Haute, Ind.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Wayne State *
S. 8 Eastern Ill. +
S. 22 Illinois St. +
S. 29 Cent. Mo. St. +
O. 6 Ball State @
O. 13 Louisville
O. 27 Southern Ill.
N. 10 Tulsa +
N. 17 Western Ill.
@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Kent State
Kent, Ohio
(1-10-0)
S. 1 Akron +
S. 8 Kentucky
S. 22 Northern Ill. *
S. 29 Central Mich. +
O. 6 Miami, O. +
O. 13 Ball State
O. 20 Ohio
O. 27 Toledo +
N. 3 Eastern Mich. *
N. 10 Western Mich.
N. 17 Bowling Green +

Lafayette
Easton, Pa.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Rhode Island
S. 15 New Hampshire +
S. 22 Kutztown St. +
S. 29 Columbia
O. 6 Maine
O. 13 Connecticut +
O. 20 Colgate
N. 3 Bucknell
N. 10 East Stroudsburg +
N. 17 Lehigh +

Lamar
Beaumont, Tex.
(2-9-0)
S. 1 Tex. Southern +*
S. 15 North Texas St. +*
S. 22 Rice *
S. 29 Texas-Arlington +*
O. 6 NE Louisiana *
O. 13 SW Texas +*
O. 20 Sam Houston St.
O. 27 Louisiana Tech +
N. 3 Nicholls St. +*
N. 10 Arkansas St. *
N. 17 McNeese St. *

Lehigh
Bethlehem, Pa.
(8-3-0)
S. 8 Massachusetts
S. 15 Connecticut
S. 22 Colgate +
S. 29 Delaware +
O. 6 Northeastern
O. 13 Navy
O. 20 New Hampshire +
O. 27 Fullerton St. +
N. 3 William & Mary
N. 10 Bucknell +
N. 17 Lafayette

Long Beach
Long Beach, Calif
(8-4-0)
S. 8 Oregon
S. 15 UCLA
S. 22 Fresno St. *
S. 29 Arizona *
O. 6 Nevada-Las Vegas +
O. 13 Utah State
O. 20 New Mexico St. *
O. 27 Fullerton St. +
N. 3 Pacific, Cal. +
N. 10 San Jose St. *
N. 24 San Diego St. *

Louisiana Tech
Ruston, La.
(4-7-0)
S. 1 SE Louisiana *
S. 8 SW Louisiana +*
S. 15 Southern Miss. *
S. 22 Mississippi
S. 29 North Texas St. +*
O. 6 McNeese St. *
O. 13 Arkansas St. +*
O. 20 NW Louisiana @*
O. 27 Lamar
N. 3 NE Louisiana *
N. 10 Texas-Arlington +*
@ Shreveport, La.

Louisville
Louisville, Ky.
(3-8-0)
S. 1 Murray St. +*
S. 8 West Virginia
S. 15 Southern Meth. +*
S. 29 Houston *
O. 6 Western Ky. +
O. 13 Indiana St. +
O. 20 Rutgers
O. 27 Cincinnati
N. 3 Miami, Fla. +
N. 10 Tennessee St. +
N. 17 Southern Miss. *

Maine
Orono, Me.
(4-6-0)
S. 8 New Hampshire
S. 15 Richmond
S. 22 Rhode Island +
S. 29 Boston U. *
O. 6 Lafayette +
O. 13 Delaware
O. 20 Massachusetts +
O. 27 Connecticut
N. 3 Northeastern +
N. 10 Howard
N. 17 Holy Cross +

Marshall
Huntington, W.Va.
(4-7-0)
S. 1 West Virginia Tech +*
S. 8 Morehead St. +*
S. 15 Eastern Mich. +*
S. 22 Furman +*
S. 29 Western Mich.
O. 13 Appalachian St. +
O. 20 Citadel
O. 27 Tenn.-Chattanooga +
N. 3 Western Caro.
N. 10 Illinois St.
N. 17 East Tenn. St.

Massachusetts
Amherst, Mass.
(3-8-0)
S. 1 Ball State +
S. 8 Lehigh +
S. 22 Holy Cross
O. 6 Rhode Island
O. 13 Richmond +
O. 20 Maine
O. 27 Boston U.
N. 3 Connecticut +
N. 10 Delaware
N. 17 New Hampshire +

McNeese
Lake Charles, La.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 SW Louisiana +*
S. 8 SE Louisiana +*
S. 15 Nicholls St. *
S. 22 West Texas St. *
O. 6 Louisiana Tech +*
O. 13 North Texas St. *
O. 20 Arkansas St. *
O. 27 NE Louisiana +*
N. 3 Texas-Arlington *
N. 10 SW Louisiana +*
N. 17 Lamar +*

Memphis St.
Memphis, Tenn.
(6-4-1)
S. 1 Arkansas St. +*
S. 8 Mississippi
S. 22 Cincinnati +*
S. 29 Southern Miss. *
O. 6 Florida St. +*
O. 13 SW Louisiana +*
O. 20 Mississippi St. +*
O. 27 North Carolina +*
N. 3 Georgia
N. 10 Tennessee
N. 17 Tulane *

Miami (Fla.)
Coral Gables, Fla.
(10-1-0)
A. 27 Auburn @*
S. 1 Florida %*
S. 8 Michigan
S. 15 Purdue
S. 22 Florida St. +
S. 29 Boston Col. +
O. 6 Notre Dame
O. 13 Cincinnati
O. 20 Pittsburgh +
N. 3 Louisville
N. 10 Maryland +
N. 24 Rutgers +
@ East Rutherford, N.J.
% Tampa Fla.

Miami (Ohio)
Oxford, Ohio
(4-7-0)
S. 8 Western Mich.
S. 15 Houston *
S. 22 Bowling Green +
S. 29 Washington
O. 6 Kent State
O. 13 Toledo +
O. 20 Central Mich. +
O. 27 Northern Ill.
N. 3 Ohio
N. 10 Eastern Mich. +
N. 22 Cincinnati

Middle Tennessee
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
(8-2-0)
S. 1 Lenoir Rhyne +*
S. 22 Morehead St. +
S. 29 Akron +
O. 6 Eastern Ky.
O. 13 Murray St.
O. 20 Austin Peay +
O. 27 Youngstown St.
N. 3 Western Ky.
N. 10 Ga. Southern +
N. 17 Tenn. Tech

Montana
Missoula, Mont.
(4-6-0)
S. 8 Abilene Christian +
S. 14 Portland St. *
S. 22 Idaho St. *
S. 29 Weber St. *
O. 6 Northern Ariz.+
O. 13 Eastern Wash. +
O. 20 Boise St. *
O. 27 Idaho +
N. 3 Montana St. +
N. 10 Nevada-Reno
N. 17 Army @
@ Tokyo, Japan

Montana St.
Bozeman, Mont.
(1-10-0)
S. 8 Mesa +
S. 15 Eastern Wash. @*
S. 22 Idaho *
S. 29 Idaho St. +
O. 6 Weber St. *
O. 13 Nevada-Reno +
O. 20 Portland St. +
O. 27 Boise St. +
N. 3 Montana
N. 10 Northern Ariz. +
N. 17 Fresno St.
@ Spokane, Wash.

Morehead St.
Morehead, Ky.
(2-9-0)
S. 1 Georgetown, Ky. +*
S. 8 Marshall *
S. 15 James Madison +
S. 22 Middle Tenn.
S. 29 Murray St. +
O. 6 Austin Peay *
O. 13 Akron *
O. 20 Tenn. Tech. +
O. 27 Western Ky. +
N. 10 Eastern Ky.
N. 17 Youngstown St. +

Murray St.
Murray, Ky.
(7-4-0)
S. 1 Louisville *
S. 15 SE Missouri +*
S. 22 Tenn. Tech *
S. 29 Morehead St.
O. 6 SW Missouri +*
O. 13 Middle Tenn. +
O. 20 Akron +
O. 27 Eastern Ky.
N. 3 Austin Peay +
N. 10 Youngstown St. +
N. 17 Western Ky. +

Nevada-Las Vegas
Las Vegas, Nev.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 San Jose St. +*
S. 15 New Mexico St. *
S. 22 Wichita St. +*
S. 29 Hawaii *
O. 6 Long Beach St.
O. 13 Idaho St. +*
O. 20 Pacific, Cal. *
O. 3 San Diego St. *
N. 10 Fullerton St. +*
N. 17 Utah State
N. 24 Fresno St. +*
D. 1 Southern Meth. +*

Nevada-Reno
Reno, Nev.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 Pacific, Cal. *
S. 15 Texas A&I +
S. 22 Boise St. *
S. 29 Northern Ariz. +
O. 6 Idaho +
O. 13 Montana St.
O. 20 Fullerton St. +
O. 27 Weber St.
N. 3 Eastern Wash. +
N. 10 Montana +
N. 17 Idaho St. *

New Hampshire
Durham, N.H.
(7-3-0)
S. 8 Maine +
S. 15 Lafayette
S. 22 Boston U. +
S. 29 Dartmouth
O. 6 Connecticut +
O. 13 Bucknell +
O. 20 Lehigh
O. 27 Northeastern
N. 3 Rhode Island +
N. 10 Holy Cross
N. 17 Massachusetts

New Mexico St.
Las Cruces, N.M.
(5-6-0)
S. 1 San Jose St. *
S. 8 New Mexico *
S. 15 Nevada-Las Vegas +*
S. 22 Drake
S. 29 Fresno St. *
O. 6 Texas-El Paso +*
O. 13 Pacific, Cal.
O. 20 Long Beach St. +*
O. 27 West Texas St. +
N. 3 Wichita St. *
N. 17 Fullerton St. +

North Dakota
Grand Forks, N.D.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 Michigan Tech +
S. 8 Wis.-Superior +
S. 15 Augustana, S.D. +
S. 22 South Dakota St.
S. 29 Northern Colo. +
O. 6 Mankato St.
O. 13 St. Cloud St. +
O. 20 Neb.-Omaha *
O. 27 North Dakota St. +
N. 3 South Dakota +
N. 10 Morningside

North Texas St.
Denton, Tex.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Angelo St. +*
S. 15 Lamar *
S. 22 Southern Meth. *
S. 29 Louisiana Tech *
O. 6 Arkansas St. *
O. 13 McNeese St. +*
O. 20 Texas Christian
O. 27 SW Texas +*
N. 3 Kentucky
N. 10 NE Louisiana +
N. 17 Texas-Arlington

Northeast Louisiana
Monroe, La.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Nicholls St. *
S. 8 Central Florida +*
S. 15 SW Louisiana *
S. 29 NW Louisiana +*
O. 6 Lamar +*
O. 13 SE Louisiana +*
O. 20 Texas-Arlington +*
O. 27 McNeese St. *
N. 3 Louisiana Tech +*
N. 10 North Texas St.
N. 17 Arkansas St. *

Northern Arizona
Flagstaff, Ariz.
(4-7-0)
S. 8 Northridge St. +*
S. 15 Weber St. +*
S. 22 Pacific, Cal. +*
S. 29 Nevada-Reno
O. 6 Montana
O. 13 Boise St. +*
O. 20 Idaho St. +*
O. 27 N.M. Highlands +*
N. 3 Idaho *
N. 10 Montana St.
N. 17 Eastern Wash. @
@ Spokane, Wash.

Northern Illinois
De Kalb, Ill.
(9-2-0)
S. 1 West Texas St. +*
S. 8 Wisconsin
S. 22 Kent State +*
S. 29 Ball State +*
O. 6 Western Mich.
O. 13 Eastern Mich. +
O. 20 Bowling Green
O. 27 Miami, O. +
N. 3 Central Mich. +
N. 10 Toledo *
N. 17 Ohio

Northwestern St.
Natchitoches, La.
(4-7-0)
S. 1 McNeese St. *
S. 8 Angelo St. *
S. 22 Abilene Christian +*
S. 29 NE Louisiana *
O. 6 SW Texas +
O. 13 Nicholls St. +*
O. 20 Louisiana Tech @*
O. 27 Sam Houston St. +*
N. 3 Southern Miss. *
N. 10 SE Louisiana *
N. 17 Stephen F. Austin *
@ Shreveport, La.

Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Ind.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Purdue @
S. 15 Michigan St.
S. 22 Colorado +
S. 29 Missouri
O. 6 Miami, Fla. +
O. 13 Air Force +
O. 20 South Carolina +
O. 27 Louisiana St. *
N. 3 Navy %
N. 17 Penn State +
N. 24 Southern Cal
@ Indianapolis, Ind.
% East Rutherford, N.J.

Ohio
Athens, Ohio
(4-7-0)
S. 1 West Virginia
S. 8 North Carolina St. *
S. 15 Ball State
S. 22 Eastern Mich. *
S. 29 Toledo +
O. 13 Central Mich.
O. 20 Kent State +
O. 27 Western Mich.
N. 3 Miami, O. +
N. 10 Bowling Green
N. 17 Northern Ill. +

Pacific
Stockton, Calif.
(3-9-0)
S. 8 Nevada-Reno +*
S. 15 California
S. 22 Northern Ariz. *
S. 29 Oregon
O. 6 Fullerton St. +*
O. 13 New Mexico St. +
O. 20 Nevada-Las Vegas +*
O. 27 Utah State
N. 3 Long Beach St.
N. 10 Fresno St.
N. 17 San Jose St. +*

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.
(6-3-1)
S. 22 Dartmouth
S. 29 Davidson +
O. 6 Columbia +
O. 13 Brown
O. 20 Army
O. 27 Yale +
N. 3 Princeton
N. 10 Harvard +
N. 17 Cornell

Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
(4-6-0)
S. 22 Cornell
S. 29 Bucknell +
O. 6 Brown +
O. 13 Columbia
O. 20 Navy
O. 27 Harvard +
N. 3 Pennsylvania +
N. 10 Yale
N. 17 Dartmouth +

Rhode Island
Kingston, R.I.
(6-4-0)
S. 1 Howard +
S. 8 Lafayette +
S. 15 Holy Cross
S. 22 Maine
S. 29 Brown
O. 6 Massachusetts +
O. 13 Northeastern
O. 20 Boston U. +
O. 27 Lehigh
N. 3 New Hampshire
N. 17 Connecticut

Richmond
Richmond, Va.
(3-8-0)
S. 1 James Madison
S. 8 Bowling Green
S. 15 Maine +
S. 22 Virginia Tech
O. 6 Wake Forest +
O. 13 Massachusetts
O. 27 Va. Military +
N. 3 Colgate +
N. 10 Northeastern
N. 17 William & Mary +

San Jose St.
San Jose, Calif.
(5-6-0)
S. 1 New Mexico St. +*
S. 8 Nevada-Las Vegas *
S. 15 Arizona St. *
S. 22 Stanford
S. 29 California
O. 6 Utah State +*
O. 13 Fullerton St.
O. 20 SW Louisiana +
O. 27 Fresno St. +*
N. 10 Long Beach St. +*
N. 17 Pacific, Cal. *

Slippery Rock
Slippery Rock, Penn.
(6-4-0)
S. 8 Dayton *
S. 15 Millersville +
S. 22 Indiana, Pa. +
S. 29 Edinboro
O. 6 Clarion +
O. 13 Lock Haven
O. 20 Shippensburg +
O. 27 California, Pa.
N. 3 Kutztown St.
N. 10 Mansfield +

South Carolina
Columbia, S.C.
(5-6-0)
S. 8 Citadel +*
S. 22 Duke +*
S. 29 Georgia +*
O. 6 Kansas St. +
O. 13 Pittsburgh +
O. 20 Notre Dame
O. 27 East Carolina +
N. 3 North Carolina St.
N. 10 Florida St. +
N. 17 Navy
N. 24 Clemson

South Dakota
Vermillion, S.D.
(7-4-0)
S. 1 Wyoming
S. 8 NE Missouri
S. 15 Neb.-Omaha *
S. 22 St. Cloud St. +*
S. 29 Morningside *
O. 6 North Dakota St. +*
O. 13 Northern Colo. +
O. 20 Mankato St.
O. 27 South Dakota St. +
N. 3 North Dakota
N. 10 Augustana, S.D. +

South Dakota St.
Brookings, S.D.
(5-6-0)
S. 1 Portland St.
S. 8 Wis. Stout +
S. 15 Morningside +
S. 22 North Dakota +
S. 29 St. Cloud St.
O. 6 Neb.-Omaha +
O. 13 North Dakota St.
O. 20 Augustana, S.D.
O. 27 South Dakota
N. 3 Mankato St. +
N. 10 Wyoming

SE Louisiana
Hammond, La.
(6-5-0)
S. 1 Louisiana Tech +*
S. 8 McNeese St. *
S. 15 Mississippi Col. +
S. 29 Western Ky. +*
O. 6 Southeastern La.
O. 13 NE Louisiana *
O. 20 SW Texas +*
O. 27 Stephen F. Austin +
N. 3 SW Missouri
N. 10 NW Louisiana +*
N. 17 Nicholls St. *

Southern Illinois
Carbondale, Ill.
(10-1-0)
S. 1 Tulsa *
S. 8 Illinois St. *
S. 15 Western Ill. +
S. 22 Arkansas St. +
S. 29 SE Missouri
O. 6 Northern Iowa +
O. 13 Eastern Ill.
O. 20 West Texas St. +
O. 27 Indiana St. +
N. 3 Drake
N. 10 SW Missouri

Southern Miss
Hattiesburg, Miss.
(7-4-0)
S. 8 Georgia
S. 15 Louisiana Tech +*
S. 22 Auburn *
S. 29 Memphis St. +*
O. 6 Mississippi St. @
O. 13 Tulane *
O. 20 Mississippi @
O. 27 SW Louisiana *
N. 3 NW Louisiana +*
N. 10 East Carolina
N. 17 Louisville +*
@ Jackson, Miss.

SW Louisiana
Lafayette, La.
(4-6-0)
S. 1 Tenn.-Chattanooga *
S. 8 Louisiana Tech *
S. 15 NE Louisiana +*
S. 22 Alabama
O. 6 Wichita St. +*
O. 13 Memphis St. *
O. 20 San Jose St.
O. 27 Southern Miss. +*
N. 3 East Carolina +
N. 10 McNeese St. *
N. 17 Tulsa *

Tenn.-Chattanooga
Chattanooga, Tenn.
(7-4-0)
S. 1 SW Louisiana +*
S. 8 Arkansas St. +*
S. 15 Western Caro. +*
S. 29 Furman +*
O. 6 East Tenn. St. +
O. 13 Ga. Southern
O. 20 Va. Military
O. 27 Marshall
N. 10 Appalachian St. +
N. 17 Florida St. *

Tennessee St.
Nashville, Tenn.
(8-2-1)
S. 1 Hampton Inst. @*
S. 8 Jackson St. *
S. 15 Alabama A&M +*
S. 22 Florida A&M +*
O. 6 Grambling *
O. 13 Tenn. Tech
O. 20 Kentucky St.
O. 27 Southern U. +
N. 3 Bethune-Cookman %*
N. 10 Louisville
N. 17 N.C. A&T +
@ Memphis, Tenn.
% Orlando, Fla.

Tennessee Tech
Cookeville, Tenn.
(2-8-0)
S. 8 East Tenn. St. +*
S. 15 Kansas St. *
S. 22 Murray St. +*
S. 29 Western Caro. *
O. 6 Youngstown St. +
O. 13 Tennessee St. +
O. 20 Morehead St.
O. 27 Akron *
N. 3 Eastern Ky. +
N. 10 Austin Peay
N. 17 Middle Tenn. +

Texas-Arlington
Arlington, Tex.
(5-6-0)
S. 8 West Texas St. +*
S. 15 Texas Tech *
S. 22 SW Texas +*
S. 29 Lamar *
O. 6 Stephen F. Austin +*
O. 13 Wichita St.
O. 20 NE Louisiana *
O. 27 Arkansas St. +*
N. 3 McNeese St. +*
N. 10 Louisiana Tech *
N. 17 North Texas St. +

Toledo
Toledo, Ohio
(9-2-0)
S. 8 Ball State
S. 22 Eastern Ill. +*
S. 29 Ohio
O. 6 Bowling Green +*
O. 13 Miami, O.
O. 20 Eastern Mich. +*
O. 27 Kent State
N. 3 Western Mich. +*
N. 10 Northern Ill. +*
N. 17 Central Mich.
N. 30 Temple @*
@ Atlantic City, N.J.

Tulane
New Orleans, La.
(4-7-0)
S. 1 Mississippi St. +*
S. 15 Florida St.
S. 22 Kentucky +*
S. 29 Mississippi
O. 6 Vanderbilt *
O. 13 Southern Miss. +*
O. 20 Florida St. *
N. 3 Virginia Tech
N. 10 Pittsburgh
N. 17 Memphis St. +*
N. 24 Louisiana St. *

Tulsa
Tulsa, Okla.
(8-3-0)
S. 1 Southern Ill. +*
S. 15 Brigham Young
S. 22 Arkansas
S. 29 Oklahoma St. +
O. 6 West Texas St. *
O. 13 East Carolina +*
O. 20 Wichita St. +*
O. 27 Texas Tech
N. 3 Illinois St.
N. 10 Indiana St.
N. 17 SW Louisiana +*

Utah State
Logan, Utah
(5-6-0)
S. 8 Southern Cal
S. 15 Texas Christian +
S. 22 Fullerton St.
O. 6 San Jose St. *
O. 13 Long Beach St. +
O. 20 Fresno St. *
O. 27 Pacific, Cal. +
N. 3 Arizona *
N. 10 Utah +
N. 17 Nevada-Las Vegas +
N. 24 Brigham Young

VMI
Lexington, Va.
(2-9-0)
S. 8 William & Mary
S. 15 Virginia *
S. 22 Western Caro. +
S. 29 Appalachian St. +
O. 6 Virginia Tech @
O. 20 Tenn.-Chattanooga +
O. 27 Richmond
N. 3 Citadel
N. 10 James Madison
N. 17 Boston U. +
@ Norfolk, Va.

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Va.
(9-2-0)
S. 8 Wake Forest *
S. 15 West Virginia +
S. 22 Richmond +
S. 29 Virginia +
O. 6 Va. Military @
O. 13 Duke +
O. 20 William & Mary +
O. 27 Temple *
N. 3 Tulane +
N. 10 Clemson
N. 17 Vanderbilt
@ Norfolk, Va.

Western Carolina
Cullowhee, N.C.
(8-2-1)
S. 1 Boston Col. *
S. 8 Davidson +*
S. 15 Tenn.-Chattanooga *
S. 22 Va. Military
S. 29 Tenn. Tech +*
O. 6 Appalachian St.
O. 13 Citadel +
O. 20 Wofford +
O. 27 Furman
N. 3 Marshall +
N. 10 East Tenn. St.

Western Kentucky
Bowling Green, Ky.
(2-8-1)
S. 8 Appalachian St. +
S. 15 Akron *
S. 22 Central Florida +
S. 29 SE Louisiana *
O. 6 Louisville
O. 13 SW Missouri +
O. 20 Eastern Ky. +
O. 27 Morehead St.
N. 3 Middle Tenn. +
N. 10 Eastern Ill.
N. 17 Murray St.

Western Michigan
Kalamazoo, Mich.
(6-5-0)
S. 8 Miami, O. +
S. 15 Illinois St. +
S. 22 Central Mich.
S. 29 Marshall +
O. 6 Northern Ill. +
O. 13 Bowling Green
O. 20 Ball State
O. 27 Ohio +
N. 3 Toledo *
N. 10 Kent State +
N. 17 Eastern Mich. *

West Texas St.
Canyon, Tex.
(0-10-1)
S. 1 Northern Ill. *
S. 8 Texas-Arlington *
S

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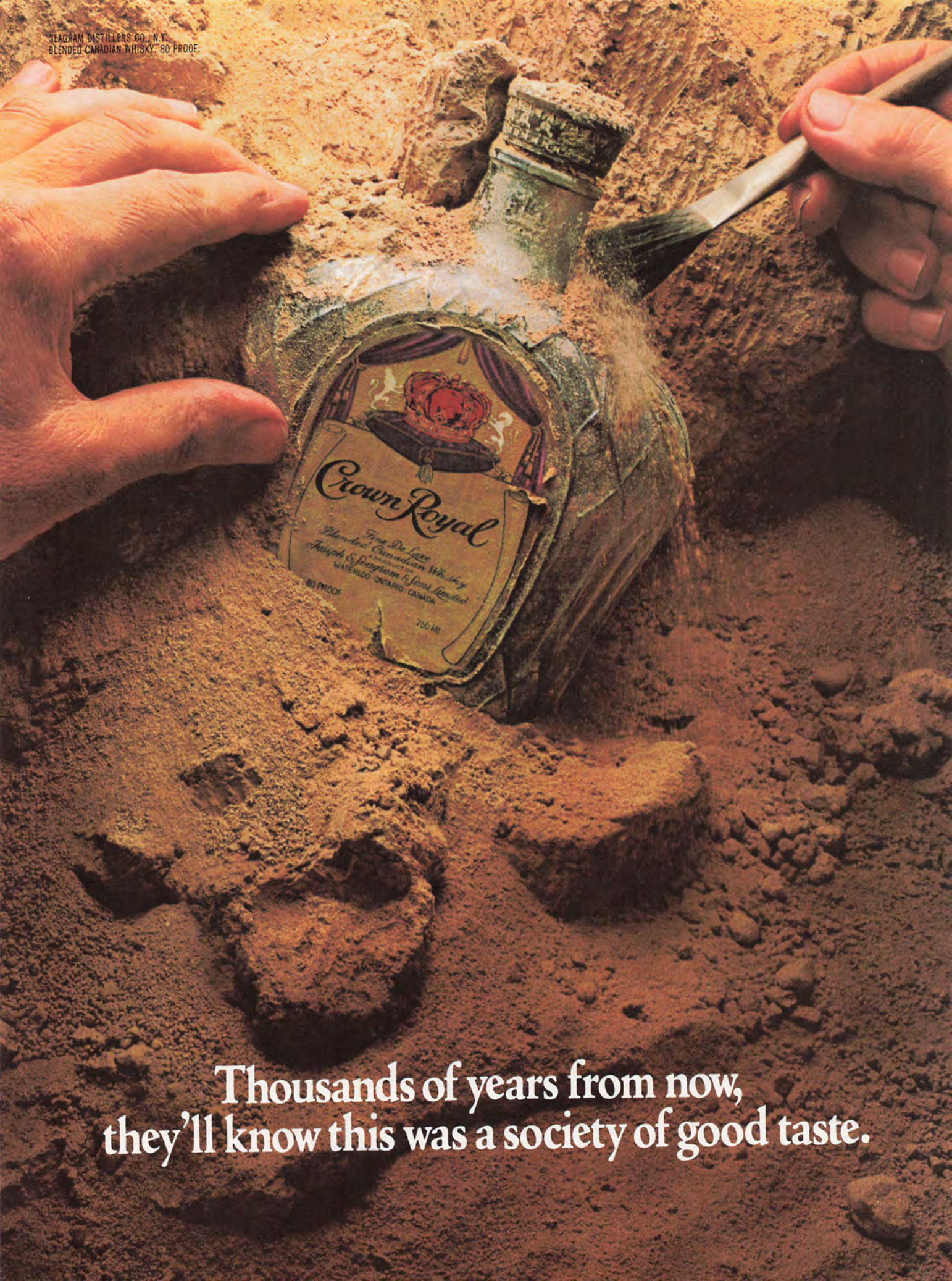


Thousands of years from now, they'll know this was a society of good taste.

(William Andrews continued)

less likely they'll get a good shot at you. I have a low center of gravity that helps me."

He seems to get better as the game goes on. "In the first and second quarters, I'm just getting warmed up," he says. "By the third and fourth quarters, that's when things start clicking." Chicago Bear fans got a look at this in early September last season, when the temperature inside Soldier Field hit 110 degrees. Chicago had shut down the Falcon running attack for three periods. By the fourth quarter, however, the Bears had become arm-weary, and there was Andrews, getting stronger, carrying 10 times for 51 yards to protect a slim Atlanta lead.

It's performances like this that place Andrews at the top of the popularity list in the Falcon fraternity. "He makes the job so much easier," says veteran center Jeff Van Note. "He sent me to the Pro Bowl a couple of times when my blocking wasn't really crisp. He's so quick hitting the hole he made me look like a better player than I was.

"William always has a smile on his face. I don't think I've ever seen him really down. He's an uplifting type of person. To me, he seems to have everything in perspective. The most important thing in this game is to remember who you are. William can live with the fact that his talents haven't been suitably recognized."

"I wish that everyone on the team had a little bit of his heart," says Falcon quarterback Steve Bartkowski. "If everyone did, we wouldn't have been 7-9 last season."

Carol Henderson, who coordinates requests for public appearances and charity work by Falcon players, says Andrews never says no. "He *has* turned down some paid appearances, knowing other players may need the money more than he does," says Henderson. "But when no fee is offered, he goes and goes. William never questions the fee. When he came here, the going rate was $300. He was amazed that someone would pay him that much. Now the fees usually range from $400 to $750. But he's never raised his fee. I've raised it for him simply to weed out some of the requests. Some people want him to speak to kids. Some want him to mingle with their big-business contacts. He's the kind who can get along with kids and bank presidents. His rule is, 'If you've got time to talk to me, I've got time to talk to you.' In William's mind, he has never reached superstardom."

Wife Lydia accepts her husband's many absences in stride. "Sometimes I get tired of it," she says, "but I realize it's part of the territory. He wants to do it and he's good at it."

Andrews talks like someone in control. "At first, maybe you want people to know about you, but then you realize it's not as important as you thought," he says.

He grew up on a farm near Thomasville, Ga., part of a family of nine. He "worked the fields like everyone else. I remember being behind a mule with my dad on one of those open-faced plows. No one complained."

Andrews never heard of or cared much for football as a boy. He spent most of his time outdoors, playing with other kids. He might have gotten interested in the game, but, he says, the TV set at home was always broken.

"When I got to junior high, I began to hear about O.J. Simpson," says Andrews. "He was the first one I ever noticed. The best thing football did was keep me off the streets and out of trouble."

Andrews became a team leader at Thomasville High School, which went from all-white to predominantly black in a few years. Thomasville won 25 of 26 games in Andrews' junior and senior seasons along with a state championship.

John Payne, a Thomasville doctor who became Andrews' close friend, gives Andrews credit for integration moving smoothly. "He not only was a quieting force among blacks," says Payne, "he had tremendous respect among whites. He bridged the gap. He was the chief reason in keeping Thomasville settled down."

Andrews won a scholarship to Auburn. But, typical of this low-key star, he wasn't in the limelight. He spent most of his time blocking for Joe Cribbs and James Brooks.

Tom Braatz, Atlanta's general manager, said if the scouts knew that Andrews was going to run the ball like he has ("all he shows you is helmet, shoulder pads and knees," says Bartkowski), he would have been a first-round draft pick, not a No. 3. His pass catching and blocking were well-documented.

When Andrews began running through people, Bennett, his former coach, remarked, "I feel like a guy who bought a Cadillac and discovered it gets 35 miles a gallon."

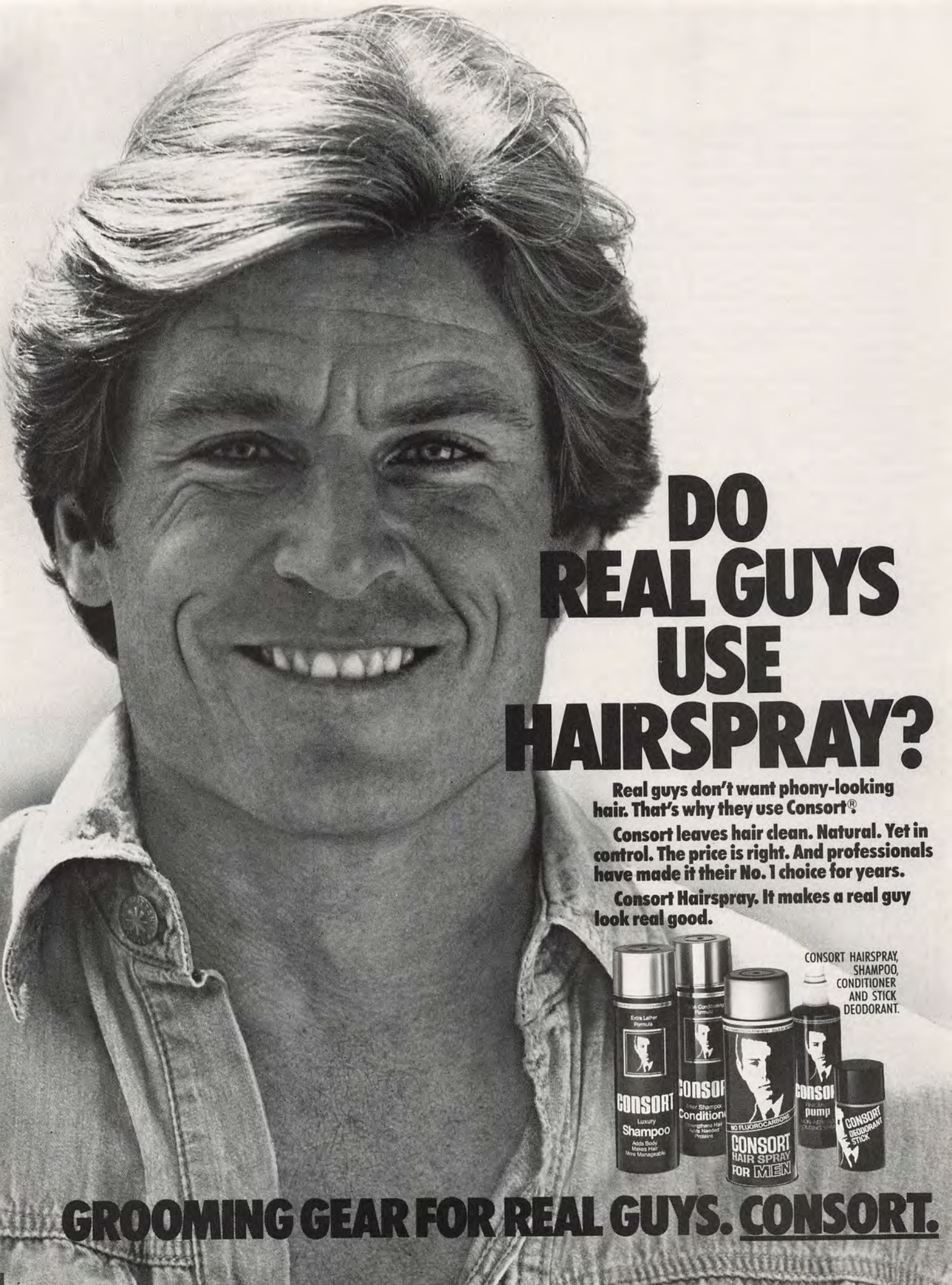
After Dan Henning became Atlanta coach in 1983, moving from the Redskins, he immediately saw "a John Riggins type" in Andrews, even though William was almost 30 pounds lighter. "He makes more under-20-yard runs than most guys," says Henning. "When a guy is going four-four-four, you know he's consistent." Perhaps the best gauge of Andrews' consistency is that his career rushing total of 5,772 yards was carved out with a longest run of 33 yards (in 1980).

Last November Andrews celebrated the birth of a second son by jolting the Packers for 129 yards rushing and another 54 yards catching in a 47-41 overtime win. Mikha Andrews arrived a month ahead of schedule. And there was his father, having had maybe two hours' sleep in two days, in the delivery room, holding him.

"True warriors go weeks without sleep because there's sniper fire and bombs dropping all around them," says Andrews. "Whether you get no sleep, or a lot of sleep, the idea is to play hard all the time. I play hard."

END

Shoulders lowered, Andrews sometimes blocks for himself.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ATHLON'S 1984 ROSTER & DATA GUIDE

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Edited by Bill Kalinowski

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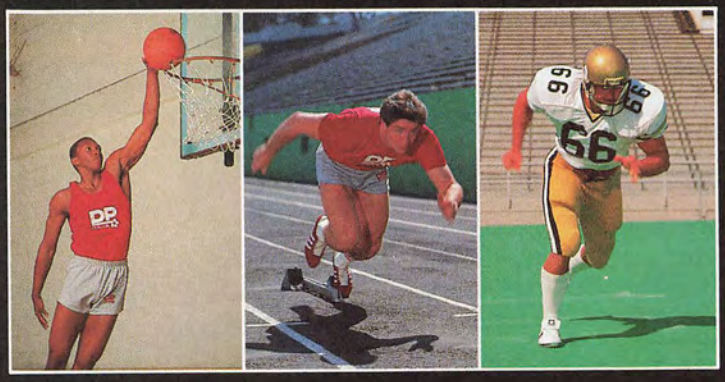

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ATLANTA FALCONS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
31	Andrews, William	RB	6-0	213	6
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6-1	160	3
10	Bartkowski, Steve	QB	6-4	218	10
69	Benish, Dan	DT	6-5	265	2
26	Britt, James	DB	6-0	185	2
66	Bryant, Warren	T	6-7	270	8
23	Butler, Bobby	CB	5-11	175	4
21	Cain, Lynn	RB	6-1	205	6
88	Cox, Arthur	TE	6-3	245	2
89	Curran, William	WR	5-10	175	3
50	Curry, Buddy	LB	6-4	228	5
51	Dixon, Rich	LB	6-2	235	2
71	Dufour, Dan	G	6-5	280	2
58	Frye, David	LB	6-2	205	2
34	Gaison, Blane	S	6-1	188	4
1	Giacomarro, Ralph	P	6-0	190	2
36	Glazebrook, Bob	S	6-1	200	7
52	Harper, John	LB	6-3	230	2
30	Haworth, Steve	CB	5-11	190	2
83	Hodge, Floyd	WR	6-0	190	3
85	Jackson, Alfred	WR	6-0	185	7
84	Jenkins, Alfred	WR	5-9	155	10
81	Johnson, Billy	HB-WR	5-9	170	10
37	Johnson, Kenny	CB	5-11	172	5
20	Jones, Earl	CB	6-1	175	5
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	255	7
54	Kuykendall, Fulton	LB	6-4	228	10
70	Lee, Ron	G-T	6-3	260	6
55	Levenick, Dave	LB	6-3	220	2
18	Luckhurst, Mick	K	6-0	180	4
49	Matthews, Allama	HB	6-3	230	2
40	Meyers, Eddie	RB	5-9	205	1
87	Mikeska, Russ	TE	6-3	222	6
62	Miller, Brett	T	6-7	275	2
80	Miller, Junior	HB-TE	6-4	240	5
15	Moroski, Mike	QB	6-4	200	6
53	Musser, Neal	LB	6-3	223	4
74	Pitts, Mike	DE	6-5	260	2
27	Pridemore, Tom	S	5-11	186	7
72	Provence, Andrew	DT	6-3	265	2
59	Rade, John	LB	6-1	220	2
56	Richardson, Al	LB	6-3	220	5
42	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6-1	230	3
33	Robinson, Bo	HB	6-2	235	6
67	Sanders, Eric	T	6-7	270	4
61	Scully, John	G	6-6	255	4
67	Simeta, Mike	DT	6-4	267	2
65	Smith, Don	DT	6-5	260	6
68	Thielemann, R.C.	G	6-4	252	8
43	Tutson, Tom	DB	6-1	180	2
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	250	16
22	Williams, Richard	RB	6-0	205	2
79	Yeates, Jeff	DE	6-3	252	13
86	Young, Ben	TE	6-4	225	2
63	Zele, Mike	DT	6-4	250	6

Head Coach: Dan Henning (NFL Record: 7-9)

1983 Data

Record: 7-9-0, 4th NFC West
Total Offense: 351.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 364.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 23.1 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 24.3 ppg.
Leading Rusher: William Andrews, 1567 yds., 7 TDs.
Leading Passer: Steve Bartkowski, 274-432-5,3167 yds., 22 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Billy Johnson, 64 rcpts., 709 yds., 4 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

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30	Detroit	14
20	San Francisco	24
24	Philadelphia	28
17	New Orleans	19
21	Los Angeles Rams	27
27	New York Jets	21
24	New England	13
10	New Orleans	27
13	Los Angeles Rams	36
28	San Francisco	24
47	Green Bay	41
21	Washington	37
24	Miami	31
31	Buffalo	14

BUFFALO BILLS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
75	Acker, Bill	NT	6-3	255	5
84	Barnett, Buster	TE	6-5	235	4
73	Borchardt, Jon	G	6-5	255	6
86	Brammer, Mark	TE	6-3	235	5
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6-0	178	6
67	Caldwell, Darryl	T	6-5	245	2
7	Cater, Greg	P	6-0	191	5
29	Clark, Mario	CB	6-2	195	9
63	Cross, Justin	T	6-6	265	3
18	Danelo, Joe	K	5-9	166	10
89	Dawkins, Julius	WR	6-1	196	2
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	250	8
19	Dufek, Joe	QB	6-4	215	2
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	12
28	Flint, Judson	S	6-0	201	4
85	Franklin, Byron	WR	6-1	179	4
22	Freeman, Steve	S	5-11	185	10
53	Grant, Will	C	6-4	248	7
55	Haslett, Jim	LB	6-3	232	6
	Holt, Robert	WR	6-1	182	2
25	Hooks, Roland	RB	6-0	195	8
87	Hunter, Tony	TE	6-3	237	2
47	Hurley, Bill	S	5-11	185	3
90	Hutchinson, Scott	DE	6-4	255	6
91	Johnson, Ken	DE	6-5	253	6
72	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	256	9
50	Junkin, Trey	LB	6-2	221	2
52	Keating, Chris	LB	6-2	223	6
21	Kennedy, Mike	S	6-0	195	2
43	Kilson, David	CB	6-1	200	2
10	Kofler, Matt	QB	6-3	192	3
42	Kush, Rod	S	6-0	188	5
48	Leaks, Roosevelt	RB	5-10	225	10
82	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	14
59	Lumpkin, Joey	LB	6-2	230	3
61	Lynch, Tom	G	6-5	250	8
54	Marve, Eugene	LB	6-2	230	3
58	Merrill, Mark	LB	6-3	234	6
34	Moore, Booker	FB	5-11	224	3
88	Mosley, Mike	WR	6-2	192	3
38	Nixon, Jeff	S	6-3	190	5
62	Parker, Ervin	LB	6-5	240	5
74	Payne, Jimmy	DE	6-3	264	1
40	Riddick, Robb	RB	6-0	195	3
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	251	5
26	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	8
57	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	216	7
76	Smerlas, Fred	NT	6-3	270	6
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-3	231	2
	Taylor, Roger	T	6-6	275	2
24	Thompson, Gary	CB	6-0	180	2
81	Tuttle, Perry	WR	6-0	178	3
	Vanden Boom, Matt	S	6-4	204	1
41	Villapiano, Phil	LB	6-2	225	14
93	Virkus, Scott	DE	6-5	248	2
65	Vogler, Tim	C-G	6-3	245	6
45	Walterscheid, Len	S	5-11	190	8
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5	250	13
77	Williams, Ben	DE	6-3	245	9
27	Williams, Chris	CB	6-0	197	3
23	Williams, Van	RB	6-0	208	2

Head Coach: Kay Stephenson (NFL Record: 8-8)

1983 Data

Record: 8-8, T2nd AFC East
Total Offense: 301.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 363.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 17.7 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.9 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Joe Cribbs, 1131 yds., 3 TDs.
Leading Passer: Joe Ferguson, 2995 yds., 26 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Joe Cribbs, 57 rcpts., 524 yds., 7 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

0	Miami	12
10	Cincinnati	6
28	Baltimore	23
30	Houston	13
10	New York Jets	34
38	Miami	35
30	Baltimore	7
0	New England	31
27	New Orleans	21
7	New England	21
24	New York Jets	17
24	Los Angeles Raiders	27
17	Los Angeles Rams	41
14	Kansas City	9
10	San Francisco	23
14	Atlanta	31

CHICAGO BEARS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
51	Atkins, Kelvin	LB	6-3	235	2
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	210	10
84	Baschnagel, Brian	WR	6-0	184	9
79	Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	270	3
25	Bell, Todd	S	6-0	207	4
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-5	267	2
54	Cabral, Brian	LB	6-1	224	6
59	Campbell, Gary	LB	6-1	220	8
74	Covert, Jim	T	6-4	271	2
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	240	2
22	Duerson, Dave	S	6-0	202	2
88	Dunsmore, Pat	TE	6-2	230	2
64	Fada, Rob	G	6-2	258	2
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	197	9
24	Fisher, Jeff	S	5-10	188	4
21	Frazier, Leslie	CB	6-0	189	4
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6-6	265	8
	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	198	6
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-0	178	2
29	Gentry, Dennis	RB	5-8	173	3
99	Hampton, Dan	DT	6-5	270	6
90	Harris, Al	DE	6-5	250	6
73	Hartenstine, Mike	DE	6-3	243	10
63	Hilgenberg, Jay	C	6-3	260	4
32	Hutchison, Anthony	RB	5-10	180	2
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	265	10
72	Janata, John	T	6-7	255	2
98	Keys, Tyrone	DE	6-7	260	2
82	Margerum, Ken	WR	6-0	180	4
85	McKinnon, Dennis	WR	6-2	185	2
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-0	187	3
76	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	260	5
87	Moorehead, Emery	TE	6-2	220	8
67	Norman, Tim	G	6-6	270	2
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	245	13
34	Payton, Walter	RB	5-10	202	10
20	Potter, Kevin	S	5-10	188	2
53	Rains, Dan	LB	6-1	220	3
27	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-0	188	2
81	Saldi, Jay	TE	6-3	230	9
44	Schmidt, Terry	CB	6-0	177	11
57	Simmons, David	LB	6-4	225	4
50	Singletary, Mike	LB	5-11	230	4
15	Stachowicz, Ray	P	6-0	185	4
26	Suhey, Matt	RB	5-11	217	5
33	Thomas, Calvin	RB	5-11	220	3
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	175	9
78	Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	265	4
80	Watts, Rickey	WR	6-1	203	6
43	Williams, Walt	CB	6-1	185	8
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	222	5

Head Coach: Mike Ditka (NFL Record: 11-14)

1983 Data

Record: 8-8-0, T2nd NFC Central
Total Offense: 364.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 320.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 19.4 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 18.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Walter Payton, 1421 yds., 6 TDs.
Leading Passer: Jim McMahon, 175-295-13, 2184 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Walter Payton, 53 rcpts., 607 yds., 2 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

17	Atlanta	20
17	Tampa Bay	10
31	New Orleans	34
19	Baltimore	22
31	Denver	14
14	Minnesota	23
17	Detroit	31
7	Philadelphia	6
17	Detroit	38
14	Los Angeles Rams	21
17	Philadelphia	14
27	Tampa Bay	0
13	San Francisco	3
28	Green Bay	31
19	Minnesota	13
23	Green Bay	21

CINCINNATI BENGALS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
40	Alexander, Charles	RB	6-1	226	6
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-3	212	14
61	Boyarsky, Jerry	NT	6-3	290	4
10	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	161	6
34	Breeden, Louis	CB	5-11	185	7
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	261	7
67	Burley, Gary	DE	6-3	282	9
50	Cameron, Glenn	LB	6-2	228	10
11	Christensen, Jeff	QB	6-3	202	2
76	Collins, Glen	DE	6-6	265	3
80	Collinsworth, Cris	WR	6-5	192	4
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1	192	12
52	Dinkel, Tom	LB	6-3	237	7
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	256	8
49	Frazier, Guy	LB	6-2	221	4
48	Gibler, Andy	TE	6-4	234	2
22	Griffin, James	S	6-2	197	2
44	Griffin, Ray	CB	5-10	186	7
66	Hannula, Jim	T	6-6	264	2
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	232	3
20	Horton, Ray	CB	5-11	190	2
37	Jackson, Robert	S	5-10	186	4
46	Johnson, Pete	RB	6-0	272	8
26	Kemp, Bobby	S	6-0	191	4
28	Kinnebrew, Larry	RB	6-1	252	2
86	Kreider, Steve	WR	6-3	192	6
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	262	2
62	Lapham, Dave	G	6-4	266	11
55	LeClair, Jim	LB	6-3	234	13
47	Maidlow, Steve	LB	6-2	234	2
87	McInally, Pat	P	6-6	212	9
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	275	6
60	Moore, Blake	C	6-5	267	5
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	5
68	Obrovac, Mike	T	6-6	275	4
51	Razzano, Rick	LB	5-11	227	5
13	Riley, Ken	CB	6-0	183	16
64	Rimington, Dave	C	6-3	288	2
89	Ross, Dan	TE	6-4	235	6
15	Schonert, Turk	QB	6-1	190	5
59	Schuh, Jeff	LB	6-2	228	4
25	Simmons, John	CB	5-11	192	4
56	Simpkins, Ron	LB	6-1	235	5
23	Tate, Rodney	RB	5-11	190	3
35	Turner, Jimmy	CB	6-0	187	2
81	Verser, David	WR	6-1	202	4
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-0	228	9
77	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	271	7
32	Wilson, Stanley	RB	5-10	210	2

Head Coach: Sam Wyche (NFL Record: 0-0)

1983 Data

Record: 7-9, 3rd AFC Central
Total Offense: 330.2 yds. per game
Total Defense: 270.4 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 21.6 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 18.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: P. Johnson, 763 yds., 14 TDs.
Leading Passer: K. Anderson, 2333 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Receiver: C. Collinsworth, 66 rcpts., 1130 yds., 5 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

10	Los Angeles Raiders	20
6	Buffalo	10
7	Cleveland	17
23	Tampa Bay	17
31	Baltimore	34
14	Pittsburgh	24
17	Denver	24
28	Cleveland	21
34	Green Bay	14
55	Houston	14
15	Kansas City	20
38	Houston	10
14	Miami	38
23	Pittsburgh	10
17	Detroit	9
14	Minnesota	20

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CLEVELAND BROWNS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
80	Adams, Willis	WR	6-2	200	5
52	Ambrose, Dick	LB	6-0	228	10
61	Baab, Mike	C	6-4	270	3
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	6
99	Baldwin, Keith	DE	6-4	250	3
56	Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	233	3
88	Belk, Rocky	WR	6-0	187	2
47	Braziel, Larry	CB	6-0	184	6
97	Brown, Thomas	DE	6-4	255	4
49	Burrell, Clinton	S	6-1	192	5
96	Camp, Reggie	DE	6-4	264	2
59	Carver, Dale	LB	6-2	225	2
75	Contz, Bill	T	6-5	260	2
50	Cousineau, Tom	LB	6-3	225	3
15	Cox, Steve	P-K	6-4	195	4
38	Davis, Johnny	FB	6-1	235	7
64	DeLamielleure, Joe	C	6-3	260	12
54	DeLeone, Tom	C	6-2	254	13
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	252	14
29	Dixon, Hanford	CB	5-11	182	4
74	Farren, Paul	G-T	6-5	251	2
83	Feacher, Ricky	WR	5-10	180	9
10	Flick, Tom	QB	6-2	190	3
94	Franks, Elvis	DE	6-4	265	5
79	Golic, Bob	NT	6-2	260	5
30	Green, Boyce	RB	5-11	215	2
31	Gross, Al	S	6-3	186	2
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-4	260	9
26	Hall, Dino	RB-KR	5-7	165	6
60	Ham, Robin	C-G	6-3	260	1
84	Harmon, Michael	WR	6-0	208	2
84	Harris, Duriel	WR	5-11	184	9
81	Holt, Harry	TE	6-4	230	2
78	Hopkins, Thomas	T	6-6	260	2
68	Jackson, Robert	G	6-5	260	10
51	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-1	215	4
48	Johnson, Lawrence	CB	5-11	204	5
89	Jones, Bobby	WR	5-11	185	6
86	Manning, Wade	WR	5-11	190	4
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	230	6
16	McDonald, Paul	QB	6-2	185	5
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	7
58	Nicolas, Scott	LB	6-3	226	3
40	Perry, Rod	CB	5-9	185	10
43	Pruitt, Mike	FB	6-0	225	9
72	Puzzuoli, Dave	NT	6-3	260	2
63	Risien, Cody	T	6-7	270	6
22	Scott, Clarence	S	6-0	190	14
87	Stracka, Tim	TE	6-3	225	2
12	Trocano, Rick	QB	6-0	188	4
42	Walker, Dwight	RB-WR	5-10	185	3
55	Weathers, Curtis	LB	6-5	230	6
25	White, Charles	RB	5-10	190	4
21	Whitwell, Mike	S	6-0	175	3

Head Coach: Sam Rutigliano (NFL Record: 46-43)

1983 Data

Record: 9-7-0, 2nd AFC Central
Total Offense: 348.9 yds. per game
Total Defense: 321.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.3 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.4 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Mike Pruitt, 1184 yds., 10 TDS.
Leading Passer: Brian Sipe, 291-496-23, 3566 yds., 26 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Ozzie Newsome, 89 rcpts., 970 yds., 6 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

21	Minnesota	27
31	Detroit	26
17	Cincinnati	7
30	San Diego	24
9	Seattle	24
10	New York Jets	7
17	Pittsburgh	44
21	Cincinnati	28
25	Houston	19
21	Green Bay	35
20	Tampa Bay	0
30	New England	0
41	Baltimore	23
6	Denver	27
27	Houston	34
30	Pittsburgh	17

DALLAS COWBOYS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
31	Allen, Gary	RB	5-10	183	3
62	Baldinger, Brian	G	6-4	255	3
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	199	2
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	6-2	227	10
76	Caldwell, Bryan	DE	6-4	248	1
47	Clinkscale, Dextor	S	5-11	190	4
61	Cooper,. Jim	T	6-5	267	8
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	236	6
51	Dickerson, Anthony	LB	6-2	219	5
83	Donley, Doug	WR	6-0	178	4
67	Donovan, Pat	T	6-5	260	10
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	189	8
26	Downs, Michael	S	6-3	205	4
78	Dutton, John	DT	6-7	274	11
27	Fellows, Ron	CB	6-0	178	4
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	231	9
25	Hill, Rod	CB	6-0	193	3
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	198	8
14	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	200	5
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	264	2
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	275	10
23	Jones, James	RB	5-10	199	4
57	King, Angelo	LB	6-1	222	4
90	Langston, Mike	DE	6-4	255	1
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	258	12
52	McLean, Scott	LB	6-4	233	2
35	McSwain, Chuck	RB	6-0	191	2
3	Miller, Jim	P	5-11	183	5
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB	5-10	213	13
30	Newsome, Timmy	RB	6-1	235	5
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	190	12
65	Petersen, Kurt	G	6-4	268	5
81	Phillips, Kirk	WR	6-1	195	1
75	Pozderac, Phil	T	6-9	274	3
64	Rafferty, Tom	C	6-3	259	9
85	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	7
70	Richards, Howard	G	6-6	253	4
50	Rohrer, Jeff	LB	6-3	225	3
66	Schultz, Chris	T	6-8	265	2
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6-2	263	10
1	Septien, Rafael	K	5-10	171	8
82	Simmons, Cleo	TE	6-2	225	2
60	Smerek, Don	DT	6-7	255	4
20	Springs, Ron	RB	6-1	218	6
73	Taylor, Dan	T	6-3	258	1
32	Thurman, Dennis	CB	5-11	182	7
63	Titensor, Glen	C	6-4	251	4
71	Tuinei, Mark	DT	6-5	270	2
24	Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	194	4
59	Walter, Mike	LB	6-3	238	2
5	Warren, John	P	6-0	207	1
11	White, Danny	QB	6-2	193	9
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	263	10

Head Coach: Tom Landry (NFL Record: 234-134-6)

1983 Data

Record: 12-4-0, 2nd NFC East
Total Offense: 372.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 339.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 29.9 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 22.5 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Tony Dorsett, 1321 yds., 8 TDs.
Leading Passer: Randy White, 334-533-23 3980 yds., 29 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Ron Springs, 73 rcpts., 589 yds., 1 TD.

1983 RESULTS

31	Washington	30
34	St. Louis	17
28	New York Giants	13
21	New Orleans	20
37	Minnesota	24
27	Tampa Bay	24
37	Philadelphia	7
38	Los Angeles Raiders	40
38	New York Giants	20
27	Philadelphia	20
23	San Diego	24
41	Kansas City	21
35	St. Louis	17
35	Seattle	10
10	Washington	31
17	San Francisco	42

DENVER BRONCOS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
74	Baker, Jerry	T	6-2	297	2
86	Barnett, Dean	TE	6-2	225	2
54	Bishop, Keith	C-G	6-3	260	4
65	Bowyer, Walt	DE	6-4	245	2
	Brunner, Scott	QB	6-5	200	5
64	Bryan, Bill	C	6-2	258	7
58	Busick, Steve	LB	6-4	227	4
68	Carter, Rubin	NT	6-0	256	10
79	Chavous, Barney	DE	6-3	258	12
59	Comeaux, Darren	LB	6-1	227	3
63	Cooper, Mark	T	6-5	267	2
55	Dennison, Rick	LB	6-2	215	3
21	Dupree, Myron Ray	CB	5-11	180	2
85	Egloff, Ron	TE	6-5	235	8
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	202	2
43	Foley, Steve	S	6-2	190	8
62	Glassic, Tom	G	6-3	260	9
31	Harden, Mike	S	6-1	192	5
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	11
28	Jackson, Roger	CB	6-0	186	3
57	Jackson, Tom	LB	5-11	220	12
75	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	260	5
3	Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	3
8	Kubiak, Gary	QB	6-0	192	2
76	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	269	4
72	Latimer, Don	NT	6-2	265	7
	Logan, Dave	WR	6-4	215	9
66	Manor, Brison	DE	6-4	248	8
82	McDaniel, Orlando	WR	6-0	180	3
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	DE-NT	6-3	250	2
29	Myers, Wilbur	S	5-11	195	2
39	Myles, Jessie	RB	5-10	210	2
34	Poole, Nathan	RB	5-9	212	5
46	Preston, Dave	RB	5-11	195	7
11	Prestridge, Luke	P	6-4	235	6
	Ramson, Eason	TE	6-2	234	6
50	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	215	6
84	Sampson, Clint	WR	5-11	183	2
83	Sawyer, John	TE	6-2	230	9
	Smith, Darryl	CB	6-0	195	1
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	4
78	Stachowski, Rich	DE-NT	6-4	245	2
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	260	6
37	Trimble, Steve	S	5-10	181	4
67	Uecker, Keith	T	6-5	260	3
80	Upchurch, Rick	WR	5-10	180	10
81	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	195	6
47	Willhite, Gerald	RB	5-10	200	3
45	Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	195	3
23	Winder, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	3
52	Woodard, Ken	LB	6-1	218	3
87	Wright, Jim	TE	6-3	240	5
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-2	200	10

Head Coach: Dan Reeves (NFL Record: 21-21)

1983 Data

Record: 9-7-0, T2nd AFC West
Total Offense: 300.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 350.6 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 18.9 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 20.4 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Sammy Winder, 757 yds., 3 TDs.
Leading Passer: John Elway, 123-259-14, 1663 yds., 7 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Steve Watson, 59 rcpts., 1133 yds., 5 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

14	Pittsburgh	10
17	Baltimore	10
10	Philadelphia	13
7	Los Angeles Raiders	22
14	Chicago	31
26	Houston	14
24	Cincinnati	17
14	San Diego	6
27	Kansas City	24
19	Seattle	27
20	Los Angeles Raiders	22
38	Seattle	27
7	San Diego	31
27	Cleveland	6
21	Baltimore	19
17	Kansas City	48

DETROIT LIONS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
54	Barnes, Roosevelt	LB	6-2	222	3
11	Black, Mike	P	6-1	197	2
24	Bussey, Dexter	RB	5-11	210	11
89	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	185	2
53	Cobb, Garry	LB	6-2	227	6
66	Cofer, Mike	DE	6-5	245	2
50	Curley, August	LB	6-3	222	2
16	Danielson, Gary	QB	6-2	196	8
73	Dawson, Mike	DT	6-3	254	9
72	Dieterich, Chris	T	6-3	255	5
58	Doig, Steve	LB	6-2	242	3
70	Dorney, Keith	T	6-5	265	6
61	Elias, Homer	G	6-2	255	7
78	English, Doug	DT	6-5	258	9
57	Fantetti, Ken	LB	6-2	232	6
65	Fowler, Amos	C	6-3	253	7
79	Gay, William	DE	6-5	255	7
33	Graham, William	DB	5-11	191	3
67	Greco, Don	G	6-3	255	3
62	Green, Curtis	DE	6-3	252	4
35	Hall, Alvin	DB-RS	5-10	184	4
51	Harrell, James	LB	6-1	220	6
23	Harvey, Maurice	DB	5-9	187	6
17	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-2	196	5
31	Jenkins, Ken	RB-RS	5-8	184	2
21	Johnson, Demetrious	DB	5-11	190	2
30	Jones, James	FB	6-2	228	2
32	Kane, Rick	RB	6-0	200	8
25	King, Horace	RB	5-11	205	10
43	Latimer, Al	DB	5-11	177	5
82	Lee, Edward	WR	5-11	182	2
64	Lee, Larry	G	6-2	260	4
14	Machurek, Mike	QB	6-1	205	3
83	Martin, Robbie	WR-RS	5-8	177	4
81	McCall, Reese	TE	6-6	232	7
29	McNorton, Bruce	DB	5-11	175	3
63	Moss, Martin	DT	6-4	252	3
52	Mott, Steve	C	6-3	260	2
3	Murray, Ed	K	5-10	175	5
86	Nichols, Mark	WR	6-2	208	4
80	Norris, Ulysses	TE	6-4	232	6
84	Rubick, Rob	TE	6-2	228	3
87	Scott, Fred	WR	6-2	190	11
20	Sims, Billy	RB	6-0	212	5
71	Strenger, Rich	T	6-7	269	2
39	Thompson, Leonard	WR	5-11	192	10
38	Thompson, Vince	FB	6-0	225	3
55	Turnure, Tom	C	6-4	253	5
34	Wagoner, Dan	DB	5-10	180	3
27	Watkins, Bobby	DB	5-10	184	3
59	Williams, Jimmy	LB	6-2	222	3

Head Coach: Monte Clark (NFL Record: 47-56-0)

1983 Data

Record: 9-7-0, 1st NFC Central
Total Offense: 321.0 yds. per game
Total Defense: 326.0 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 21.7 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 17.9 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Billy Sims, 1040 yds., 7 TDs.
Leading Passer: Eric Hipple, 204-387-18, 2577 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Receiver: James Jones, 46 rcpts., 467 yds., 1 TD.

1983 RESULTS

11	Tampa Bay	0
26	Cleveland	31
14	Atlanta	30
17	Minnesota	20
10	Los Angeles Rams	21
38	Green Bay	14
31	Chicago	17
17	Washington	38
38	Chicago	17
15	New York Giants	9
17	Houston	27
23	Green Bay	20
45	Pittsburgh	3
13	Minnesota	2
9	Cincinnati	17
23	Tampa Bay	20

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	229	7
72	Boyd, Greg	DE	6-6	280	7
73	Braggs, Byron	DE	6-4	270	4
93	Brown, Robert	DE	6-2	250	3
19	Campbell, Rich	QB	6-4	219	4
88	Cassidy, Ron	WR	6-0	180	5
33	Clark, Jessie	FB	6-0	233	2
82	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	225	7
52	Cumby, George	LB	6-0	224	5
57	Curcio, Mike	LB	6-1	232	4
12	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	203	14
53	Douglass, Mike	LB	6-0	214	7
61	Drechsler, Dave	G	6-3	264	2
31	Ellis, Gerry	FB	5-11	225	5
85	Epps, Phillip	WR	5-10	155	3
60	Favron, Calvin	LB	6-2	230	5
11	Garcia, Eddie	K	5-8	178	2
24	Gray, Johnnie	FS	5-11	202	9
65	Hallstom, Ron	T	6-6	283	3
69	Harris, Leotis	G	6-1	265	6
38	Hood, Estus	DB	5-11	189	7
25	Huckleby, Harlan	RB	6-1	201	5
74	Huffman, Tim	T	6-5	282	4
40	Ivery, Eddie Lee	HB	6-0	214	5
83	Jefferson, John	WR	6-1	204	7
99	Johnson, Charles	NT	6-2	265	4
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	259	7
21	Jolly, Mike	DB	6-3	185	4
63	Jones, Terry	DT	6-2	253	6
64	Kitson, Syd	G	6-4	264	4
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	276	6
62	Laughlin, Jim	LB	6-1	222	5
22	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	188	5
56	Lewis, Cliff	LB	6-1	224	4
26	Lewis, Tim	DB	5-11	191	2
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	197	7
54	McCarren, Larry	C	6-3	251	12
29	McCoy, Mike	DB	5-11	190	9
39	Meade, Mike	FB	5-10	224	3
37	Murphy, Mark	FS	6-2	201	4
44	O'Steen, Dwayne	CB	6-1	195	7
51	Prather, Guy	LB	6-2	229	4
35	Rodgers, Del	RB	5-10	202	2
58	Rubens, Larry	C	6-1	250	3
70	Sams, Ron	G	6-3	269	2
55	Scott, Randy	LB	6-1	222	4
13	Scribner, Bucky	P	6-0	202	2
91	Skaugstad, Daryle	NT	6-5	268	4
79	Spears, Ron	DE	6-6	255	3
10	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	190	18
67	Swanke, Karl	T-C	6-6	262	5
	Thomaselli, Rich	RB	6-1	205	3
75	Turner, Rich	DT	6-2	261	4
17	Whitehurst, David	QB	6-2	205	8
50	Wingo, Rich	LB	6-1	227	5
20	Winters, Chet	RB	5-11	204	2

Head Coach: Forrest Gregg (NFL Record: 50-48)

1983 Data

Record: 8-8-0, T2nd NFC Central
Total Offense: 385.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 400.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 26.8 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 27.4 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Gerry Ellis, 696 yds., 4 TDs.
Leading Passer: Lynn Dickey, 289-484-29, 4458 yds., 32 TDs.
Leading Receiver: James Lofton, 58 rcpts., 1300 yds., 8 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

41	Houston	38
21	Pittsburgh	25
27	Los Angeles Rams	24
3	New York Giants	27
55	Tampa Bay	14
14	Detroit	38
48	Washington	47
17	Minnesota	20
14	Cincinnati	34
35	Cleveland	21
29	Minnesota	21
20	Detroit	23
41	Atlanta	47
31	Chicago	28
12	Tampa Bay	9
21	Chicago	23

HOUSTON OILERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
56	Abraham, Robert	LB	6-1	215	3
87	Arnold, Walt	TE	6-3	234	5
75	Baker, Jesse	DE	6-5	272	6
80	Bailey, Harold	WR	6-2	196	4
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	225	12
25	Bostic, Keith	SS	6-1	212	2
52	Brazile, Robert	LB	6-4	237	10
24	Brown, Steve	CB-KR	5-11	188	2
81	Bryant, Steve	WR	6-2	191	3
34	Campbell, Earl	RB	5-11	238	7
58	Carter, David	C	6-2	260	8
40	Craft, Donnie	RB	6-0	205	3
88	Dressel, Chris	TE	6-4	231	2
35	Edwards, Stan	RB	6-0	210	3
78	Foster, Jerome	DE	6-2	258	2
77	France, Doug	OT	6-5	266	9
90	Hamm, Bob	DE	6-4	248	2
36	Hartwig, Carter	FS	6-0	207	6
21	Hatchett, Derrick	CB	5-11	184	5
23	Hill, Greg	CB	6-1	189	2
84	Holston, Mike	WR	6-3	188	4
66	Howell, Pat	OG	6-6	260	6
50	Hunt, Daryl	LB	6-3	235	6
6	James, John	P	6-3	196	13
	Johnson, Butch	WR	6-1	187	9
57	Joiner, Tim	LB	6-4	224	2
22	Kay, Bill	CB	6-1	190	4
4	Kempf, Florian	K	5-9	170	3
71	Kennard, Ken	DE	6-2	255	8
10	Luck, Oliver	QB	6-2	193	3
74	Matthews, Bruce	OG-OT	6-4	269	2
89	McCloskey, Mike	TE	6-5	240	2
26	Meadows, Darryl	SS	6-1	199	2
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	210	2
30	Moriarty, Larry	RB	6-1	228	2
63	Munchak, Mike	OG	6-3	275	3
14	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	6-4	208	7
12	Ransom, Brian	QB	6-3	205	2
37	Reinfeldt, Mike	FS	6-2	192	9
53	Riley, Avon	LB	6-3	225	4
85	Roaches, Carl	KR-WR	5-8	170	5
73	Salem, Harvey	OT	6-6	264	2
62	Schuhmacher, John	OG	6-3	267	6
83	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	203	5
72	Sochia, Brian	MG	6-3	250	2
67	Stensrud, Mike	MG	6-5	285	6
68	Studdard, Les	C	6-4	260	3
51	Thompson, Ted	LB	6-1	219	10
76	Towns, Morris	OT	6-4	263	8
20	Tullis, Willie	CB	6-0	193	4
86	Walls, Herkie	WR	5-8	154	2
79	Whitley, Wilson	MG	6-3	265	8
33	Wilson, J.C.	CB-FS	6-0	184	7

Head Coach: Hugh Campbell (NFL Record: 0-0)

1983 Data

Record: 2-14-0, 4th AFC Central
Total Offense: 306.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 352.0 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 18.0 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 28.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Earl Campbell, 1301 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Passer: Oliver Luck, 124-217-13, 1375 yds., 8 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Tim Smith, 83 rcpts., 1176 yds., 6 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

38	Green Bay	41
6	Los Angeles Raiders	20
28	Pittsburgh	40
13	Buffalo	30
10	Pittsburgh	17
14	Denver	26
14	Minnesota	34
10	Kansas City	13
19	Cleveland	25
14	Cincinnati	55
27	Detroit	17
10	Cincinnati	38
24	Tampa Bay	33
17	Miami	24
34	Cleveland	27
10	Baltimore	20

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
74	Abramowitz, Sid	OT	6-6	279	2
2	Allegre, Raul	K	5-9	165	2
26	Anderson, Kim	FS	5-11	189	5
30	Anderson, Larry	SS	6-1	192	7
72	Baldischwiler, Karl	OT	6-5	267	7
97	Ballard, Quinton	NT	6-3	289	2
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	243	3
90	Bell, Mark	DE	6-4	240	5
85	Bouza, Matt	WR	6-3	211	3
52	Bracelin, Greg	LB	6-2	213	5
45	Burroughs, James	CB	6-1	198	3
80	Butler, Ray	WR	6-2	195	5
98	Cooks, Johnie	LB	6-4	234	3
34	Delaney, Jeff	FS	6-1	202	5
33	Dickey, Curtis	RB	6-1	214	5
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	269	5
50	Feasel, Grant	C	6-8	267	2
	Franklin, Cleveland	FB	6-2	216	7
25	Glasgow, Nesby	SS	5-10	187	6
68	Hart, Jeff	OT	6-5	273	8
88	Henry, Bernard	WR	6-0	179	3
9	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-5	199	4
75	Hinton, Chris	OG	6-4	280	2
	Humiston, Mike	LB	6-3	238	4
51	Jones, Ricky	LB	6-2	227	8
29	Kafentzis, Mark	SS	5-10	185	3
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	247	6
32	McMillan, Randy	FB	6-1	220	4
79	Mason, Lindsey	OT	6-5	275	6
56	Maxwell, Vernon	LB	6-2	219	2
	Mills, Jim	OT	6-8	280	2
23	Moore, Alvin	RB	6-0	194	2
84	Oatis, Victor	WR	6-0	177	2
49	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	233	4
60	Padjen, Gary	LB	6-2	251	3
18	Pagel, Mike	QB	6-2	201	3
78	Parker, Steve	DE	6-4	250	2
20	Porter, Rick	RB	5-10	204	2
87	Porter, Tracy	WR	6-1	196	4
35	Randle, Tate	CB	6-0	202	3
8	Reed, Mark	QB	6-3	204	3
83	Sherwin, Tim	TE	6-6	238	4
79	Sinnott, John	OT	6-4	275	4
6	Smith, Phil	WR	6-3	190	2
93	Stanback, Harry	DE	6-5	255	2
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	199	3
12	Taylor, Jim Bob	QB	6-2	197	2
21	Thompson, Aundra	WR	6-1	186	8
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-4	263	4
64	Utt, Ben	OG	6-5	267	3
71	Waechter, Henry	DE	6-6	270	3
44	Williams, Kendall	CB	5-9	189	2
39	Williams, Newton	RB	5-10	204	3
69	Wisniewski, Leo	NT	6-1	264	3
73	Wright, Steve	OG	6-5	263	4
86	Young, Dave	TE	6-5	240	3

Head Coach: Frank Kush (NFL Record: 7-17-1)

1983 Data

Record: 7-9-0, T4th AFC East
Total Offense: 313.6 yds. per game
Total Defense: 352.5 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 16.5 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 22.1 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Curtis Dickey, 1122 yds., 4 TDs.
Leading Passer: Mike Pagel, 163-328-17, 2353 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Bernard Henry, 30 rcpts., 416 yds., 4 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

29	New England	23
10	Denver	17
23	Buffalo	28
22	Chicago	19
34	Cincinnati	31
12	New England	7
7	Buffalo	30
7	Miami	21
22	Philadelphia	21
17	New York Jets	14
13	Pittsburgh	24
0	Miami	37
23	Cleveland	41
6	New York Jets	10
19	Denver	21
20	Houston	10

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-2	212	2
77	Baldinger, Rich	T-G	6-4	280	2
85	Beckman, Ed	TE	6-4	239	8
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	250	5
14	Blackledge, Todd	QB	6-3	225	2
57	Blanton, Jerry	ILB	6-1	236	6
27	Brown, Theotis	RB	6-3	225	6
66	Budde, Brad	G	6-4	260	5
34	Burruss, Lloyd	SS	6-0	202	4
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-11	174	5
20	Cherry, Deron	FS	5-11	190	4
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	275	11
50	Daniels, Calvin	OLB	6-3	236	3
75	Gardner, Ellis	T-G	6-4	263	2
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11	191	8
82	Hancock, Anthony	WR-KR	6-0	187	3
56	Haynes, Louis	OLB	6-0	227	3
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T	6-4	272	9
52	Howard, Thomas	OLB	6-2	215	8
43	Jackson, Billy	RB	5-10	215	4
51	Jackson, Charles	OLB	6-2	222	7
22	Jakes, Van	CB	5-11	185	2
9	Kenney, Bill	QB	6-4	211	6
64	Kirchner, Mark	T-G	6-3	261	2
55	Klug, Dave	ILB	6-4	230	3
91	Kremer, Ken	NT	6-4	252	6
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	190	2
71	Lindstrom, Dave	DE	6-6	255	7
62	Lingner, Adam	C-G	6-4	240	2
8	Lowery, Nick	PK	6-4	189	5
72	Lutz, David	T	6-5	280	2
74	Mangiero, Dino	NT	6-2	264	5
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	220	9
	McAlister, Ken	LB	6-5	220	3
83	Paige, Stephone	WR	6-1	180	2
58	Potter, Steve	ILB	6-3	235	4
79	Prater, Dean	DE	6-5	245	2
42	Ricks, Lawrence	RB	5-9	194	2
38	Roquemore, D.	S	6-1	180	3
70	Rourke, Jim	T-G	6-5	263	5
53	Rush, Bob	C	6-5	264	7
81	Scott, Willie	TE	6-4	245	4
86	Smith, J.T.	WR-KR	6-2	185	7
23	Smith, Lucious	CB	5-10	190	5
59	Spani, Gary	ILB	6-2	228	7
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	245	7
35	Thomas, Ken	RB	5-9	211	2
54	Walker, James	ILB	6-1	250	2
87	Wetzel, Ron	TE	6-5	242	2
92	Yakavonis, Ray	NT	6-4	250	3
61	Zamberlin, John	ILB	6-2	226	6

Head Coach: John Mackovic (NFL Record: 6-10)

1983 Data

Record: 6-10-0, T4th AFC West
Total Offense: 349.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 336.6 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 24.1 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 22.9 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Billy Jackson, 499 yds., 2 TDs.
Leading Passer: Bill Kenney, 346-603-18, 4348 yds., 24 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Carlos Carson, 80 rcpts., 1351 yds., 7 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

17	Seattle	13
14	San Diego	17
12	Washington	27
6	Miami	14
38	St. Louis	14
20	Los Angeles Raiders	21
38	New York Giants	17
13	Houston	10
24	Denver	27
20	Los Angeles Raiders	28
20	Cincinnati	15
21	Dallas	41
48	Seattle	51
9	Buffalo	14
38	San Diego	41
48	Denver	17

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LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	3
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	260	14
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	175	9
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	8
80	Barnwell, Malcolm	WR	5-11	185	4
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	13
54	Byrd, Darryl	LB	6-1	220	2
57	Caldwell, Tony	LB	6-1	225	2
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-3	230	6
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	13
79	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	280	5
45	Davis, James	CB	6-0	190	3
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	205	5
8	Guy, Ray	P	6-3	190	12
73	Hannah, Charley	G	6-5	260	8
87	Hasselbeck, Don	TE	6-7	240	8
27	Hawkins, Frank	RB	5-9	210	4
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	8
22	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	190	9
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	235	16
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6-0	195	4
11	Humm, David	QB	6-2	195	10
31	Jensen, Derrick	TE	6-1	220	6
64	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	285	8
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	6
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	NT	6-2	245	5
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	11
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	270	4
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	225	8
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	265	8
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6-2	190	3
23	McKinney, Odis	S	6-2	190	7
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	250	5
28	Montgomery, Cle	WR-KR	5-8	180	5
72	Mosebar, Don	G	6-6	265	2
82	Muhammad, Calvin	WR	5-11	190	3
51	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	235	7
71	Pickel, Bill	DE	6-5	260	2
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	215	14
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB-KR	5-10	190	12
68	Robinson, Johnny	NT	6-2	260	4
58	Squirek, Jack	LB	6-4	225	3
61	Stalls, Dave	NT	6-4	250	8
66	Sylvester, Steve	C-G	6-4	260	10
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	240	2
20	Watts, Ted	CB	6-0	195	4
85	Williams, Dokie	WR	5-11	180	2
38	Willis, Chester	RB	5-11	195	4
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-6	205	5

Head Coach: Tom Flores (NFL Record: 55-27)

1983 Data

Record: 12-4-0, 1st AFC West
Total Offense: 355.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 296.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 27.6 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.1 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Marcus Allen, 1014 yds., 10 TDs.
Leading Passer: Jim Plunkett, 230-379-18, 2935 yds., 20 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Todd Christensen, 92 rcpts., 1247 yds., 12 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

20	Cincinnati	10
20	Houston	6
27	Miami	14
22	Denver	7
35	Washington	37
21	Kansas City	20
36	Seattle	38
40	Dallas	38
21	Seattle	34
28	Kansas City	20
22	Denver	20
27	Buffalo	24
27	New York Giants	12
42	San Diego	10
24	St. Louis	34
30	San Diego	14

LOS ANGELES RAMS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
31	Alexander, Robert	HB	6-1	202	3
52	Andrews, George	LB	6-3	221	6
62	Bain, Bill	T	6-4	290	10
86	Barber, Mike	TE	6-3	232	9
96	Barnett, Doug	DE	6-3	250	3
73	Bolinger, Russ	G	6-5	255	8
50	Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	230	4
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	200	8
	Crutchfield, Dwayne	RB	6-0	232	3
70	DeJurnett, Charles	NT	6-4	260	8
88	Dennard, Preston	WR	6-1	183	7
29	Dickerson, Eric	HB	6-3	220	2
71	Doss, Reggie	DE	6-4	263	7
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	222	8
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	170	2
84	Farmer, George	WR	5-10	175	3
15	Ferragamo, Vince	QB	6-3	212	7
82	Grant, Otis	WR	6-3	197	2
44	Guman, Mike	UB	6-2	218	5
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6-5	255	10
26	Harris, Eric	CB	6-3	202	5
81	Hill, David	TE-UB	6-2	232	9
87	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	170	6
72	Hill, Kent	G	6-5	260	6
47	Irvin, LeRoy	CB	5-11	184	5
59	Jerue, Mark	LB	6-3	229	2
77	Jeter, Gary	DE	6-4	260	8
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	183	5
24	Jones, A.J.	HB	6-1	202	3
25	Jones, Gordon	WR	6-0	190	6
9	Kemp, Jeff	QB	6-0	201	4
76	Kowalski, Gary	T	6-5	250	2
1	Lansford, Mike	PK	6-0	183	3
51	Lewis, David	LB	6-4	245	8
83	McDonald, James	TE	6-5	230	2
63	McDonald, Mike	LB	6-1	235	2
69	Meisner, Greg	NT	6-3	253	4
6	Misko, John	P	6-5	207	3
13	Nelson, Chuck	PK	5-11	175	2
22	Newsome, Vince	S	6-1	179	2
58	Owens, Mel	LB	6-2	224	4
75	Pankey, Irv	T	6-4	267	5
30	Redden, Barry	HB	5-10	205	3
93	Reed, Doug	DE	6-3	250	2
57	Reilly, Mike	LB	6-4	217	3
64	Shearin, Joe	G	6-4	250	2
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	271	9
56	Smith, Doug	C	6-3	253	7
37	Sully, Ivory	S	6-0	201	6
94	Wilcher, Mike	LB	6-3	235	2
66	Williams, Eric	LB	6-2	235	8
28	Williams, Mike	CB	5-10	186	10
85	Youngblood, Jack	DE	6-4	245	14

Head Coach: John Robinson (NFL Record: 10-8)

1983 Data

Record: 9-7-0, 2nd NFC West
Total Offense: 342.1 yds. per game
Total Defense: 336.9 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.6 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.5 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Eric Dickerson, 1808 yds., 18 TDs.
Leading Passer: Vince Ferragamo, 274-464-23, 3276 yds., 22 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Mike Barber, 55 rcpts., 657 yds., 3 TDs

1983 RESULTS

16	New York Giants	6
30	New Orleans	27
24	Green Bay	27
24	New York Jets	27
21	Detroit	10
10	San Francisco	7
27	Atlanta	21
35	San Francisco	45
14	Miami	30
21	Chicago	14
36	Atlanta	13
20	Washington	42
41	Buffalo	17
9	Philadelphia	13
7	New England	21
26	New Orleans	24

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The 1984 Draft

NFL Played It Cozy, Went for Defense

by John Owen

Why shouldn't the National Football League capitalize on advancing technology? But some mental adjustment will be required of the pro football fans.

For example, the top five total yardage leaders at the end of this season will probably be Federal Express, Purolator, Greyhound, National Courier and the U.S. Postal Service, in no particular order. It became apparent on May Day 1984 that the NFL no longer plans to entrust the football to the precarious grip of runners and passers. They'll consequently ship the ball toward the end zone air express.

Only one quarterback and a single ballcarrier were selected through the first two rounds of the collegiate draft, and the teams that chose them were immediately second-guessed because Notre Dame runner Greg Bell (picked by Buffalo) missed parts of the last two seasons due to injury and Maryland quarterback Boomer Esiason (selected by Cincinnati) may have a gimpy passing shoulder.

Of course, draft selectors were also influenced by the fact that the quarterback and runner almost everybody had ranked No. 1—BYU's Steve Young and Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier of Nebraska—had by draft day already checked out uniforms in the United States Football League. And before the draft got under way, the teams with the top two picks had already agreed to financial terms with their choices. Two Nebraska players, receiver Irving Fryar and guard Dean Steinkuhler, were headed for New England and Houston respectively. Fryar had a $2.8 million four-year contract in his pocket, and Steinkuhler had one calling for $2.6 million for the same period.

If you are fond of numbers, and what draft filbert is not, then you should know that the draft required 18 hours and 42 minutes, that 25 of the first 36 players selected were defensive specialists and that 17 players off the 1983 Texas team were chosen. Thirty-five defensive players and only 21 offensive players were picked in the first two rounds.

"Best Brother Available" in the draft proved to be Southern California linebacker Keith Browner. Brothers Ross and Joey are already in the league and, like Keith, were first-round picks.

"Fastest Athlete Available" was sprint star Carl Lewis, picked 334th by Dallas even though he never played college ball.

"Best Baseball Player Available" was identified as Jay Schroeder, who was released as a Carolina League catcher and drafted in the third round by the Washington Redskins, who remembered when Schroeder was a UCLA thrower of promise.

I believe Schroeder was shipped to draft headquarters from the Carolina League by air express.

NFC EAST

Dallas—It was not an Aggie joke. The first player drafted by the Cowboys following their sale to Texas A&M Regent Bum Bright was linebacker Billy Cannon Jr. Yup, he's an Aggie and son of the former Heisman Trophy winner from LSU. But Coach Tom Landry emphasized that the decision to pick the cat-quick, 6-3 Cannon ahead of more highly publicized linebackers was his alone.

"He has an excellent intelligence level. He could play some the first year at strong linebacker," Landry says. One of the most versatile athletes in the draft, Cannon was pursued by major league baseball teams and played wide receiver, safety and ran back punts for the Aggies before being shifted to linebacker.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Billy Cannon, lb, Texas A&M	1	25	25
Victor Scott, db, Colorado	2	12	40
Trade from Minnesota thru Houston			
Fred Cornwell, te, Southern Cal	3	25	81
Steve DeOssie, lb, Boston College	4	26	110
Steve Pelluer, qb, Washington	5	1	113
Trade from Tampa Bay			
Norm Granger, rb, Iowa	5	25	137
Eugene Lockhart, lb, Houston	6	12	152
Trade from Chicago			
Joe Levelis, og, Iowa	6	26	166
Ed Martin, lb, Indiana State	7	25	193
Mike Revell, rb, Bethune-Cookman	8	26	222
John Hunt, og, Florida	9	8	232
Trade from Colts			
Neil Maune, og, Notre Dame	9	25	249
Brian Salonen, te, Montana	10	26	278
Dowe Aughtman, dt, Auburn	11	25	304
Carl Lewis, wr, Houston	12	26	334

Philadelphia—Kenny Jackson, the Penn State phenom wooed by both professional football teams in Philadelphia, spurned the Stars and signed a $2.6 million, four-year pact with the Eagles. Although Jackson's performance tailed off somewhat in his senior season, he has been compared among wide receivers with Lynn Swann.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Kenny Jackson, wr, Penn State	1	4	4
Rusty Russell, ot, South Carolina	3	4	60
Evan Cooper, db, Michigan	4	4	88
Andre Hardy, rb, St. Mary's (Calif)	5	4	116
Scott Raridon, ot, Nebraska	6	4	145
Joe Hayes, rb, Central State (Okla.)	7	4	172
Manny Matsakis, k, Capital	8	4	200
John Thomas, db, TCU	10	4	256
John Robertson, ot, East Carolina	11	4	284
Paul McFadden, k, Youngstown St.	12	4	312

New York Giants—The obvious choice as the No. 3 pick in the '84 draft seemed clearly to be Michigan State's All-America linebacker, Carl Banks.

An eleventh-hour trade with Washington allowed the Giants to draft both Banks and offensive tackle Bill Roberts of Ohio State in the first round. To fill the void left by the trade of Brian Kelley to San Diego, the 6-6, 230 Banks may move immediately to the inside, especially since New York has standouts Lawrence Taylor and Brad Van Pelt at outside linebacker. Roberts is 6-5, 272, and has been a three-year starter for the Buckeyes.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Carl Banks, lb, Michigan State	1	3	3
Bill Roberts, ot, Ohio State	1	27	27
Trade from Washington			
Jeff Hostetler, qb, West Virginia	3	3	59
Conrad Goode, ot, Missouri	4	3	87
Gary Reasons, lb, NW Louisiana	4	21	105
Trade from Denver			
Clint Harris, db, East Carolina	5	3	115
Jim Scott, de, Clemson	6	3	143
Lionel Manuel, wr, Pacific	7	3	171
David Jordan, og, Auburn	10	3	255
Heyward Golden, db, S. Caro. St.	10	5	257
Trade from San Diego			
Frank Cephous, rb, UCLA	11	3	283
Lawrence Green, lb, Tenn.-Chatt.	12	3	311

Washington—The Redskins had intended to grab Texas A&M linebacker Billy Cannon Jr., but the Dallas Cowboys, picking two spots head, had the longer reach. So Washington dealt away its first-round pick for a second and fifth from the Giants. Top Redskin acquisitions, both defensive linemen and both tabbed in the second round, were Oklahoma tackle Bob Slater (6-4, 265) and Steve Hamilton (6-4, 253), East Carolina end.

But General Manager Bobby Beathard also voiced great hope for Schroeder, who left UCLA three years ago to play professional baseball. Schroeder was tested shortly before the draft by Coach Joe Gibbs, who left the practice field anxious, optimistic and determined to draft Schroeder in the third round.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Bob Slater, dt, Oklahoma	2	3	31
Trade from New York Giants			
Steve Hamilton, de, East Carolina	2	27	55
Jay Schroeder, qb, UCLA	3	27	83
Jimmy Smith, rb, Elon	4	18	102
Trade from Los Angeles Rams thru Houston			
Jeff Pegues, lb, East Carolina	5	13	125
Trade from Chicago thru San Diego, Seattle & N.Y. Giants			
Curt Singer, ot, Tennessee	6	27	167
Mark Smith, wr, North Carolina	7	27	195
Jeff Smith, db, Missouri	8	27	223
Keith Griffin, rb, Miami (FL)	10	27	279
Anthony Jones, te, Wichita State	11	27	306
Curtland Thomas, wr, Missouri	12	27	335

St. Louis—Clyde Duncan caught only a single pass as a Tennessee freshman, was switched to defensive back as a sophomore, then caught five when moved back to wide receiver in his junior year. After a senior season that featured 33 catches for 640 yards and six touchdowns, he became the first-round pick of the Cardinals. He is 6-1, 192, and has 4.4 speed in the 40.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Clyde Duncan, wr, Tennessee	1	17	17
Doug Dawson, og, Texas	2	17	45
Rick McIvor, qb, Texas	3	24	80
Trade from San Francisco			
Martin Bayless, db, Bowling Green	4	17	101

(continued)

(Pro Draft continued)

Jeff Leiding, lb, Texas	**5**	**17**	**129**
John Goode, te, Youngstown State	**5**	**24**	**136**
Trade from San Francisco			
Rod Clark, lb, SW Texas State	**6**	**17**	**157**
Quentin Walker, rb, Virginia	**7**	**17**	**185**
Falaniko Noga, lb, Hawaii	**8**	**5**	**201**
Trade from San Diego			
Bob Paulling, k, Clemson	**8**	**17**	**213**
John Walker, rb, Texas	**9**	**17**	**241**
Mark Smythe, dt, Indiana	**10**	**17**	**269**
Kyle Mackey, qb, East Texas State	**11**	**17**	**296**
Paul Parker, og, Oklahoma	**12**	**17**	**325**

NFC CENTRAL

Chicago—The Bears wanted a linebacker and selected a good one in Wilber Marshall (6-1, 237) of Florida. Perhaps motivated by rumors that Marshall might end up in the USFL, Chicago grabbed another player at the same position in Ron Rivera (6-3, 228) of California.

Marshall is a big-play performer, rated by some as the top linebacker available in the '84 draft. Rivera's statistics are not as impressive, but he gets the job done, particularly when assigned pass-rush duty.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Wilber Marshall, lb, Florida	**1**	**11**	**11**
Ron Rivera, lb, California	**2**	**16**	**44**
Stefan Humphries, og, Michigan	**3**	**15**	**71**
Tom Andrews, og, Louisville	**4**	**14**	**98**
Nakita Robertson, rb, Central Ark.	**7**	**11**	**179**
Brad Anderson, wr, Arizona	**8**	**16**	**212**
Mark Casale, qb, Montclair State	**9**	**20**	**244**
Trade from Cleveland			
Kurt Vestman, te, Idaho	**10**	**14**	**266**
Shaun Gayle, db, Ohio State	**10**	**19**	**271**
Trade from Cleveland			
Mark Butkus, dt, Illinois	**11**	**18**	**297**
Trade from Cleveland			
Donald Jordan, rb, Houston	**12**	**22**	**330**
Trade from Cleveland			

Detroit—Some scouts backed off tight end David Lewis (6-4, 230), who missed part of his senior season at California because of injury, but the Lion medics gave him a clean bill. He certainly looks healthy. He caught 114 passes for 1,607 yards and 10 touchdowns in three years with the Bears.

The Lions feel they also landed the top kick-return specialist in the country in Pete Mandley of Northern Arizona, who demonstrated 4.38 speed and outstanding leaping ability in setting five NCAA small-college records.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
David Lewis, te, California	**1**	**20**	**20**
Pete Mandley, wr, Northern Arizona	**2**	**19**	**47**
Eric Williams, dt, Washington State	**3**	**6**	**62**
Trade from San Diego thru St. Louis			
Ernest Anderson, rb, Oklahoma St.	**3**	**18**	**74**
Steve Baack, de, Oregon	**3**	**19**	**75**
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Dave D'Addio, rb, Maryland	**4**	**22**	**106**
John Witkowski, qb, Columbia	**6**	**20**	**160**
Jimmie Carter, lb, New Mexico	**7**	**10**	**178**
Trade from Colts			
Renwick Atkins, ot, Kansas	**7**	**19**	**187**
David Jones, c, Texas	**8**	**18**	**214**
Rich Hollins, wr, West Virginia	**9**	**22**	**246**
William Frizzell, db, N.C. Central	**10**	**7**	**259**
Trade from Colts			
James Thaxton, db, Louisiana Tech	**10**	**21**	**273**
Mike Saxon, p, San Diego State	**11**	**20**	**300**
Glenn Streno, c, Tennessee	**12**	**19**	**327**

Green Bay—Attempting to shore up the worst defense in the league, the Packers grabbed two defensive linemen and a linebacker with their first three selections. Coach Forrest Gregg is high on first-round pick Alphonso Carreker (6-6, 260) of Florida State.

Third-round pick Donnie Humphrey of Auburn missed his junior year because of a knee injury but was playing at top speed again as a senior.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Alphonso Carreker, de, Florida St.	**1**	**12**	**12**
Donnie Humphrey, dt, Auburn	**3**	**16**	**72**
John Dorsey, lb, Connecticut	**4**	**15**	**99**
Tom Flynn, db, Pittsburgh	**5**	**14**	**126**
Randy Wright, qb, Wisconsin	**6**	**13**	**153**
Daryll Jones, db, Georgia	**7**	**12**	**181**
Gary Hoffman, ot, Santa Clara	**10**	**15**	**267**
Mark Cannon, c, Texas-Arlington	**11**	**14**	**294**
Lenny Taylor, wr, Tennessee	**12**	**5**	**313**
Trade from San Diego			
Mark Emans, lb, Bowling Green	**12**	**13**	**323**

Minnesota—Amid rumors that veteran end Doug Martin might bolt to the rival USFL, the Vikings drafted another defensive lineman and then set about trying to sign both.

Martin is from the University of Washington and the Vikings' No. 1 draft pick, Keith Millard, is from Washington State. He was voted the top defensive lineman in the Pac-10. He had a dozen quarterback sacks and 80 tackles for the Cougars. The Vikings had traded away two other high draft picks in the swap that brought Dave Casper and Archie Manning from Houston.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Keith Millard, de, Washington St.	**1**	**13**	**13**
Alfred Anderson, rb, Baylor	**3**	**11**	**67**
Allen Rice, rb, Baylor	**5**	**28**	**140**
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Dwight Collins, wr, Pittsburgh	**6**	**14**	**154**
John Haines, dt, Texas	**7**	**13**	**180**
Loyd Lewis, og, Texas A&I	**7**	**28**	**196**
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Paul Sverchek, dt, Cal Poly (SLO)	**8**	**12**	**208**
Keith Kidd, wr, Arkansas	**9**	**11**	**235**
James Spencer, lb, Oklahoma State	**10**	**16**	**268**
Edgar Pickett, lb, Clemson	**11**	**15**	**295**
Lawrence Thompson, wr, Miami (FL)	**11**	**28**	**308**
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Mike Jones, rb, North Carolina A&T	**12**	**14**	**321**

Tampa Bay—The Bucs would have had the first selection in the '84 draft had they not bartered it away previously for quarterback Jack Thompson. Tampa Bay still was able to land linebacker Keith Browner, a potential rookie starter from Southern California.

Browner (6-6, 225) is a likely candidate to replace Andy Hawkins, who jumped to the USFL.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Keith Browner, lb, Southern Cal	**2**	**2**	**30**
Fred Acorn, db, Texas	**3**	**1**	**57**
Michael Gunter, rb, Tulsa	**4**	**23**	**107**
Trade from San Francisco thru San Diego			
Ron Heller, ot, Penn State	**4**	**28**	**112**
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Chris Washington, lb, Iowa State	**6**	**2**	**142**
Jay Carroll, te, Minnesota	**7**	**1**	**169**
Fred Robinson, de, Miami (FL)	**8**	**2**	**198**
Rick Mallory, og, Washington	**9**	**1**	**225**
Jim Gallery, k, Minnesota	**10**	**2**	**254**
Blair Kiel, qb, Notre Dame	**11**	**1**	**281**
Thad Jemison, wr, Ohio State	**12**	**2**	**310**

NFC WEST

Atlanta—They were playing *Boomer Sooner* in the offices of the Falcons on draft day. The first three players selected were from Oklahoma, and they'll all be counted on to bolster the defense which gave up 389 points last year.

Top choice was All-America end Rick Bryan (6-4, 260), Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year. He'll be joined in rookie camp by Oklahoma teammates Scott Case, all-conference defensive back, and linebacker Thomas Benson, one of the quickest players at his position in the country.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Rick Bryan, de, Oklahoma	**1**	**9**	**9**
Scott Case, db, Oklahoma	**2**	**4**	**32**
Trade from Philadelphia			
Thomas Benson, lb, Oklahoma	**2**	**8**	**36**
Rod McSwain, db, Clemson	**3**	**7**	**63**
Rydell Malancon, lb, Louisiana State	**4**	**10**	**94**
Cliff Benson, te, Purdue	**5**	**20**	**132**
Trade from Denver thru San Francisco			
Ben Bennett, qb, Duke	**6**	**8**	**148**
Dan Ralph, dt, Oregon	**6**	**23**	**163**
Trade from San Francisco			
Kirk Dodge, lb, Nevada (Las Vegas)	**7**	**7**	**175**
Jeff Jackson, lb, Auburn	**8**	**10**	**206**
Glen Howe, ot, Southern Miss	**9**	**9**	**233**
Derrick Franklin, db, Fresno State	**10**	**8**	**260**
Tommy Norman, wr, Jackson State	**11**	**7**	**287**
Don Holmes, wr, Mesa	**12**	**10**	**318**

Los Angeles Rams—John Robinson claims he came up with the find of the day. But he didn't find Gary Green on any draft list. The Rams traded their first- and fifth-round picks to Kansas City for the All-Pro cornerback. "Look what the addition of Mark Haynes did for the Raiders," says Robinson. "Green could give us the same kind of lift."

The Rams had previously relinquished their second-round pick to Cleveland in return for negotiating rights to wide receiver Ron Brown. Thus the Rams didn't enter the action on draft day until they selected defensive end Hal Stephens of East Carolina, the 133rd pick overall.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Hal Stephens, de, East Carolina	**5**	**21**	**133**
Trade from Detroit			
Eric Mullins, wr, Stanford	**6**	**21**	**161**
George Radachowsky, db, Bos. Col.	**7**	**20**	**188**
Ed Brady, lb, Illinois	**8**	**19**	**215**
George Reynolds, p, Penn State	**9**	**18**	**242**
Norwood Vann, te, East Carolina	**10**	**1**	**253**
Trade from Houston			
Joe Dooley, c, Ohio State	**10**	**22**	**274**
Michael Harper, rb, Southern Cal	**11**	**13**	**293**
Trade from Chicago			
Dwayne Love, rb, Houston	**11**	**21**	**301**
Roderick Fisher, db, Oklahoma St.	**12**	**1**	**309**
Trade from Houston			
Sterling Bias, lb, Illinois	**12**	**20**	**328**

New Orleans—Coach Bum Phillips got a new contract on draft day and then picked a player who can use some coaching. James Geathers (6-7, 263), a defensive lineman from Wichita State, didn't discover football until his junior year in college.

Phillips also likes the prospects of the next two draft picks, safety Terry Hoage of Georgia and running back Tyrone Anthony of North Carolina. Hoage would have gone higher in the draft but for an injury last year. The Saints had no first-round pick. It went to the Jets for quarterback Richard Todd.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
James Geathers, de, Wichita State	**2**	**14**	**42**
Terry Hoage, db, Georgia	**3**	**12**	**68**
Trade from Buffalo			

Tyrone Anthony, rb, North Carolina	3	13	69
Joel Hilgenberg, c, Iowa	4	13	97
Trade from New England			
Jitter Fields, db, Texas	5	11	123
Don Thorp, dt, Illinois	6	16	156
Clemon Terrell, rb, Southern Miss	8	14	210
Brian Hansen, p, Sioux Falls	9	13	237
Paul Gray, lb, Western Kentucky	10	12	264
Michael Bourgeau, de, Boise State	11	11	291
Byron Nelson, ot, Arizona	12	16	324

San Francisco—Reacting to the loss of linebackers Willie Harper and Bobby Leopold to the New Jersey Generals of the rival league, the 49ers hoped they filled one of the positions with BYU's Todd Shell (6-4, 200). The outside linebacker was an All-WAC pick the last two years and had 14 sacks and 47 unassisted tackles last season.

John Frank's size and pre-med courses may have discouraged other NFL scouts, but San Francisco drafted the 6-1 tight end from Ohio State in the second round.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Todd Shell, lb, Brigham Young	1	24	24
John Frank, te, Ohio State	2	28	56
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			
Guy McIntyre, og, Georgia	3	17	73
Trade from St. Louis			
Michael Carter, dt, SMU	5	9	121
Trade from Atlanta			
Jeff Fuller, lb, Texas A&M	5	27	139
Trade from Washington thru L.A. Raiders			
Lee Miller, db, Cal St. (Fullerton)	9	15	239
Trade from Chicago			
Derrick Harmon, rb, Cornell	9	24	248
Dave Moritz, wr, Iowa	10	23	275
Kirk Pendleton, wr, Brigham Young	11	24	307

AFC EAST

Buffalo—There is not much doubt that the Bills hope Bell can eventually replace the departed Joe Cribbs in the Buffalo backfield. But it remains to be seen how much battering the first-round draft pick out of Notre Dame can absorb. Bell suffered a broken leg in his junior year and missed half of last season due to an ankle injury. Even as early as draft day, the Bills announced that Bell's ankle would require further treatment.

Injuries wrecked the Bills' receiving corps in 1983, and they again drafted for need in the second round, picking San Jose State wide receiver Eric Richardson, who caught 54 passes for 911 yards and eight touchdowns last year.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Greg Bell, rb, Notre Dame	1	26	26
Trade from Miami			
Eric Richardson, wr, San Jose State	2	13	41
Rodney Bellinger, db, Miami (Fla.)	3	21	77
Trade from Cleveland			
Sean McNanie, de, San Diego State	3	23	79
Trade from Pittsburgh thru Miami			
Robert Neal, fb, Miami (Fla.)	3	26	82
Trade from Miami			
Mitchell Brookins, wr, Illinois	4	11	95
John Kidd, p, Northwestern	5	16	128
Tony Slaton, c, Southern Cal	6	15	155
Stan David, db, Texas Tech	7	14	182
Stacy Rayfield, db, Texas-Arlington	8	13	209
Leroy Howell, de, Appalachian St.	9	12	236
Joseph Azelby, lb, Harvard	10	11	263
Craig White, wr, Missouri	11	16	299
Russell Davis, wr, Maryland	12	15	322

Indianapolis—The Colts have some new fans, a new stadium and according to Frank Kush they've gained two new starters on draft day. He nominates cornerback Leonard Coleman of Vanderbilt and Maryland guard Ron Solt.

Coleman set a school record with 15 career interceptions. Solt (6-3, 265) will play on the opposite side of the offensive line from Pro Bowler Chris Hinton. Kush also needed a defensive lineman and thinks he found one who may need further seasoning in Blaise Winter of Syracuse. Winter (6-3, 262) was a surprise standout in the Senior Bowl.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Leonard Coleman, db, Vanderbilt	1	8	8
Ron Solt, og, Maryland	1	19	19
Trade from Denver			
Blaise Winter, dt, Syracuse	2	7	35
Chris Scott, dt, Purdue	3	10	66
Craig Curry, db, Texas	4	9	93
George Wonsley, rb, Mississippi St.	4	19	103
Trade from Seattle			
Golden Tate, wr, Tennessee State	5	8	120
Kevin Call, ot, Colorado State	5	18	130
Trade from Seattle			
Dwight Beverly, rb, Illinois	6	7	147
Eugene Daniel, db, LSU	8	9	205
Bob Stowe, ot, Illinois	11	10	290
Steve Hathaway, lb, West Virginia	12	9	317

Miami—Dolphin coaches and scouts had four prime prospects designated on draft day, and after three had been selected by other teams they were forced to swap places with Buffalo to obtain the services of linebacker Jackie Shipp of Oklahoma. The Bills got two third-round picks from the Dolphins in the last-minute deal.

Coach Don Shula admitted he had to find a standout linebacker in the draft. In addition to Shipp (6-3, 235), who has averaged over 150 tackles the last three seasons, Miami drafted linebacker Jay Brophy (6-3, 227) of the hometown national champion Hurricanes in the second round.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Jackie Shipp, lb, Oklahoma	1	14	14
Trade from Buffalo			
Jay Brophy, lb, Miami (Fla.)	2	25	53
Joe Carter, rb, Alabama	4	25	109
Dean May, qb, Louisville	5	26	138
Rowland Tatum, lb, Ohio State	6	25	165
Bernard Carvalho, og, Hawaii	7	26	194
Ronnie Landry, rb, McNeese State	8	25	221
Jim Boyle, ot, Tulane	9	26	250
John Chesley, te, Oklahoma State	10	25	277
Bud Brown, db, Southern Miss	11	26	305
William Devane, dt, Clemson	12	12	320
Trade from Chicago thru San Francisco			
Mike Weingrad, lb, Illinois	12	25	333

New England—What? Yawns in Foxboro on draft day? They were occasioned by the fact that Nebraska wide receiver Irving Fryar, the Patriots' choice as the best player available in the '83 collegiate class, had signed his New England contract three weeks earlier. Fryar is a game-breaker, fast enough to beat you deep and strong enough to break tackles in the open field.

The Patriots' second-round choice was Ed Williams, an outside linebacker who was a pass-rushing menace at Texas.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Irving Fryar, wr, Nebraska	1	1	1
Trade from Tampa Bay thru Cincinnati			
Ed Williams, lb, Texas	2	15	43
Jon Williams, rb, Penn State	3	14	70
Paul Fairchild, og, Kansas	5	12	124
Ernest Gibson, db, Furman	6	11	151
Bruce Kallmeyer, k, Kansas	7	16	184
Derwin Williams, wr, New Mexico	7	24	192
Trade from San Francisco			
James Keyton, ot, Arizona State	8	15	211
Scott Bolzan, ot, Northern Illinois	9	14	238
David Windham, lb, Jackson State	9	27	251
Trade from Washington			
Charlie Flager, og, Washington St.	11	12	292
Harper Howell, te, UCLA	12	11	319

New York Jets—The trade of quarterback Richard Todd to New Orleans left the Jets with two first-round picks. They needed both to fill immediate needs. Cornerback Jerry Holmes had departed for the USFL, and New York selected Russell Carter of SMU as his successor. The Jets then nabbed defensive end Ron Faurot of Arkansas, looking to fill the holes created by the trade of Kenny Neil and Abdul Salaam to San Diego.

Carter, who has been compared with Seattle's Kenny Easley, can also play safety. Faurot (6-8, 254) was hampered somewhat in his senior season after a knee operation and position change, but he has the potential for greatness.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Russell Carter, db, SMU	1	10	10
Ron Faurot, de, Arkansas	1	15	15
Trade from New Orleans			
Jim Sweeney, c, Pittsburgh	2	9	37
Glenn Dennison, te, Miami (Fla.)	2	11	39
Trade from Green Bay thru San Diego			
Kyle Clifton, lb, TCU	3	8	64
Bobby Bell, de, Missouri	4	7	91
Tron Armstrong, wr, Eastern Ky.	5	10	122
Tony Paige, rb, Virginia Tech	6	9	149
Harry Hamilton, db, Penn State	7	8	176
Billy Griggs, te, Virginia	8	7	203
Bret Wright, p, SE Louisiana	8	21	217
Trade from Cleveland			
Tom Baldwin, dt, Tulsa	9	10	234
Ronny Cone, rb, Georgia Tech	10	9	261
Dan Martin, ot, Iowa State	11	8	288
David Roberson, wr, Houston	12	7	315

AFC CENTRAL

Cincinnati—With three first-round picks, the Bengals were busier than a bride with her first charge card. At day's end the shopping bag weighed almost 800 pounds. It contained Ricky Hunley (6-2, 230), Arizona's aggressive linebacker; Maryland defensive lineman Pete Koch (6-5, 255), who is quick and versatile enough to play linebacker; and Brian Blados (6-6, 295), North Carolina offensive lineman.

Hunley is tagged to replace either of two USFL defectors, Jim LeClair or Tom Dinkel. The Bengals hope that Blados will be a candidate for the position vacated by guard Dave Lapham, who also went to the new league.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Ricky Hunley, lb, Arizona	1	7	7
Pete Koch, de, Maryland	1	16	16
Trade from New England			
Brian Blados, ot, North Carolina	1	28	28
Trade from L.A. Raiders thru New England			
Boomer Esiason, qb, Maryland	2	10	38
Stanford Jennings, rb, Furman	3	9	65
John Farley, rb, Sacramento State	4	8	92
Barney Bussey, db, So. Caro. St.	5	7	119
Don Kern, te, Arizona State	6	10	150
Leo Barker, lb, New Mexico St.	7	9	177
Bruce Reimers, og, Iowa State	8	8	204
Bruce Kozerski, c, Holy Cross	9	7	231
Aaron Jackson, lb, North Carolina	10	10	262
Brent Ziegler, rb, Syracuse	10	13	265
Trade from New England			
Steve McKeaver, rb, Cent. St. (Okla.)	11	9	289

(continued)

(Pro Draft continued)

Steve Raquet, lb, Holy Cross	**12**	**8**	**316**

Cleveland—Age and injury have taken their toll in the Browns' defensive backfield, so the first two players picked were safeties—Don Rogers of UCLA and Chris Rockins of Oklahoma State. "I'd be very disappointed if one of the two doesn't start, and since I'm the coach, I won't be disappointed," deadpanned Sam Rutigliano after surveying his selections.

Rutigliano compares the hard-hitting Rogers to former Raiders' star Jack Tatum. He had 14 career interceptions for the Bruins.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Don Rogers, db, UCLA	**1**	**18**	**18**
Chris Rockins, db, Oklahoma State	**2**	**20**	**48**
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Bruce Davis, wr, Baylor	**2**	**22**	**50**
Rickey Bolden, te, SMU	**4**	**12**	**96**
Trade from New Orleans thru Denver			
Brian Brennan, wr, Boston College	**4**	**20**	**104**
Dave Piepkorn, ot, North Dakota St.	**5**	**19**	**131**
Terry Nugent, qb, Colorado State	**6**	**18**	**158**
Jim Dumont, lb, Rutgers	**7**	**22**	**190**
Don Jones, wr, Texas A&M	**9**	**4**	**227**
Trade from Philadelphia			
Earnest Byner, rb, East Carolina	**10**	**28**	**280**
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			

Houston—Quarterback Warren Moon, obtained from the Canadian Football League, should be able to find some protection behind an offensive line that now includes Dean Steinkuhler (6-3, 270), who signed a four-year, $2.4 million contract in advance of the draft. The Outland Trophy winner from Nebraska joins offensive linemen Bruce Matthews and Mike Munchak, drafted No. 1 by the Oilers the last two seasons.

Houston turned its attention to the defensive unit in the second round and plucked end Doug Smith from Auburn and free safety Bo Eason from California-Davis. Smith's weight fluctuates between 270 and 300 pounds, "but he's strong," says scout Dub Fesperman. "He can lift a building."

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Dean Steinkuhler, og, Nebraska	**1**	**2**	**2**
Doug Smith, de, Auburn	**2**	**1**	**29**
Bo Eason, db, California (Davis)	**2**	**26**	**54**
Trade from Dallas			
Johnny Meads, lb, Nicholls State	**3**	**2**	**58**
Mark Studaway, de, Tennessee	**4**	**1**	**85**
Patrick Allen, db, Utah State	**4**	**16**	**100**
Trade from Minnesota			
Robert Lyles, lb, TCU	**5**	**2**	**114**
John Grimsley, lb, Kentucky	**6**	**1**	**141**
Willie Joyner, rb, Maryland	**7**	**2**	**170**
Kevin Baugh, wr, Penn State	**8**	**1**	**197**
Jeff Donaldson, db, Colorado	**9**	**2**	**226**
Mike Johnson, de, Illinois	**9**	**3**	**228**
Trade from New York Giants			
Mike Russell, lb, Toledo	**9**	**28**	**252**
Trade from Los Angeles Raiders			

Pittsburgh—What do you look for in the draft, if you already have a wide receiver like John Stallworth? You try to collect a matched set.

The Steelers' nominee is Southern Miss' Louis Lipps. The last receiver Chuck Noll drafted in the first round, 10 years ago, was the now retired Lynn Swann. "Lipps has quickness, speed, strength, the ability to go deep, good hands and good leaping ability," says Noll. What else is there? He also returns kicks. Looking for a sleeper in the second round, the Steelers found Wyoming tight end Chris Kolodziejski, who may be a couple of years away.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Louis Lipps, wr, Southern Miss	**1**	**23**	**23**
Chris Kolodziejski, te, Wyoming	**2**	**24**	**52**
Weegie Thompson, wr, Florida St.	**4**	**24**	**108**
Terry Long, og, East Carolina	**4**	**27**	**111**
Trade from Washington			
Van Hughes, dt, SW Texas State	**5**	**23**	**135**
Chris Brown, db, Notre Dame	**6**	**24**	**164**
Scott Campbell, qb, Purdue	**7**	**23**	**191**
Randy Rasmussen, c, Minnesota	**8**	**24**	**220**
Rich Erenberg, rb, Colgate	**9**	**23**	**247**
Kirk McJunkin, ot, Texas	**10**	**24**	**276**
Elton Veals, rb, Tulane	**11**	**23**	**303**
Fernanda Gillespie, rb, Wm. Jewell	**12**	**24**	**332**

AFC WEST

Denver—The emphasis was clearly on defense in Denver, but the Broncos had to reach deep to find it because their first-round pick was traded away a year ago, as partial payment for quarterback John Elway.

Coach Dan Reeves refers to end Andre Townsend as a dominating player who will be better when he improves his pass rush. Third-round pick Tony Lilly is a safety from Florida who always seems to find his way to the football.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Andre Townsend, de, Mississippi	**2**	**18**	**46**
Tony Lilly, db, Florida	**3**	**22**	**78**
Randy Robbins, db, Arizona	**4**	**5**	**89**
Trade from San Diego thru Tampa Bay			
Aaron Smith, lb, Utah State	**6**	**19**	**159**
Clarence Kay, te, Georgia	**7**	**18**	**186**
Winford Hood, ot, Georgia	**8**	**11**	**207**
Trade from Green Bay			
Scott Garnett, dt, Washington	**8**	**22**	**218**
Chris Brewer, rb, Arizona	**9**	**21**	**245**
Bobby Micho, te, Texas	**10**	**20**	**272**
Gene Lang, rb, LSU	**11**	**19**	**298**
Murray Jarman, wr, Clemson	**12**	**18**	**326**

Kansas City—The draft-day trade of All-Pro Gary Green to the Rams created considerable controversy in Kansas City, but also gave the Chiefs some high cards in the poker game. They used their own first-round selection to obtain Pittsburgh's Bill Maas (6-4, 265), who will be converted to nose guard. With the Rams' choice, they plucked an offensive lineman, John Alt (6-7, 275) of Iowa.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Bill Maas, dt, Pittsburgh	**1**	**5**	**5**
John Alt, ot, Iowa	**1**	**21**	**21**
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Scott Radecic, lb, Penn State	**2**	**6**	**34**
Herman Heard, rb, Southern Colo.	**3**	**5**	**61**
Mark Robinson, db, Penn State	**4**	**6**	**90**
Eric Holle, de, Texas	**5**	**5**	**117**
Jeff Paine, lb, Texas A&M	**5**	**22**	**134**
Trade from Los Angeles Rams			
Rufus Stevens, wr, Grambling	**6**	**6**	**146**
Kevin Ross, db, Temple	**7**	**5**	**173**
Randy Clark, db, Florida	**8**	**6**	**202**
Scott Auer, ot, Michigan State	**9**	**5**	**229**
Dave Hestera, te, Colorado	**9**	**16**	**240**
Trade from Green Bay			
Al Wenglikowski, lb, Pittsburgh	**10**	**6**	**258**
Bobby Johnson, rb, San Jose State	**11**	**5**	**285**
Mark Lang, lb, Texas	**12**	**6**	**314**

Los Angeles Raiders—The Super Bowl champions weren't due to draft until the last pick of the second round. "But if there's somebody we want, we do everything we can to get him," says Coach Tom Flores. They wanted Sean Jones, so the Raiders traded in the second round to land the 6-7, 280-pound defensive end from Northeastern.

Jones' minor-school status didn't discourage the Raiders. Their four down linemen in the Super Bowl hail from Villanova, TCU, Rutgers and Yankton.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Sean Jones, dl, Northeastern	**2**	**23**	**51**
Trade from San Francisco			
Joe McCall, rb, Pittsburgh	**3**	**28**	**84**
Andy Parker, te, Utah	**5**	**15**	**127**
Trade from Minnesota			
Stacey Toran, db, Notre Dame	**6**	**28**	**168**
Mitch Willis, de, SMU	**7**	**15**	**183**
Trade from New Orleans			
Sam Seale, wr, Western St. (Colo.)	**8**	**28**	**224**
Gardner Williams, db, St. Mary's	**11**	**2**	**282**
Trade from Houston			
Ellis Wood, qb, Colorado	**12**	**28**	**336**

San Diego—The Chargers gave up 462 points in 1983. Looking for relief, Coach Don Coryell spotted cornerback Mossy Cade of Texas in the Senior Bowl game. Coryell and his South All-Star coaches said they had to ask Cade to pull the plug on his practice-field ferocity so he'd have some healthy teammates on game day. Cade intercepted six passes and batted away 27 more last season for the Longhorns.

Charger coaches also are high on Northwestern linebacker Mike Guendling, who has 4.6 speed and a 33-inch vertical jump, the only other player they were able to draft in the first four rounds.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Mossy Cade, db, Texas	**1**	**6**	**6**
Mike Guendling, lb, Northwestern	**2**	**5**	**33**
Lionel James, rb, Auburn	**5**	**6**	**118**
Keith Guthrie, dt, Texas A&M	**6**	**5**	**144**
Jesse Bendross, wr, Alabama	**7**	**6**	**174**
Ray Woodard, dt, Texas	**8**	**3**	**199**
Trade from New York Giants			
Bobby Craighead, rb, Northeast La.	**8**	**23**	**219**
Trade from San Francisco			
Zack Barnes, dt, Alabama State	**9**	**6**	**230**
Buford McGee, rb, Mississippi	**11**	**6**	**286**
Maurice Harper, wr, La Verne	**12**	**23**	**331**
Trade from San Francisco			

Seattle—The Seahawks, who lost defensive backs Kerry Justin and Greggory Johnson to the USFL, hope they filled a need by picking Terry Taylor, a 5-10, 175-pound Southern Illinois cornerback. Taylor has good speed and was the long-jump champion of the Missouri Valley Conference with a leap of 25-7. For his NCAA I-AA championship football team last year, Taylor intercepted eight passes and blocked three punts and two field goal attempts.

Michigan State wide receiver Daryl Turner, Seattle's choice in the second round, had a career average with the Spartans of over 20 yards per reception. He had five touchdown catches in 1983.

NAME-POS-SCHOOL	RD	PICK	SEQ
Terry Taylor, db, Southern Illinois	**1**	**22**	**22**
Daryl Turner, wr, Michigan State	**2**	**21**	**49**
Fredd Young, lb, New Mexico State	**3**	**20**	**76**
Rickey Hagood, nt, South Carolina	**4**	**2**	**86**
Trade from Tampa Bay thru San Francisco			
John Kaiser, lb, Arizona	**6**	**22**	**162**
Sam Slater, ot, Weber State	**7**	**21**	**189**
John Puzar, c, Long Beach State	**8**	**20**	**216**
Adam Schreiber, og, Texas	**9**	**19**	**243**
Randall Morris, rb, Tennessee	**10**	**18**	**270**
Steve Gemza, ot, UCLA	**11**	**22**	**302**
Theo Windham, db, Utah State	**12**	**21**	**329**

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MIAMI DOLPHINS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
70	Barnett, Bill	DE	6-4	250	5
73	Baumhower, Bob	DT	6-5	265	8
34	Bennett, Woody	FB	6-2	222	7
78	Benson, Charles	DE	6-3	267	2
75	Betters, Doug	DE	6-7	260	7
47	Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	188	6
42	Blackwood, Lyle	S	6-1	195	12
58	Bokamper, Kim	DE	6-6	250	8
56	Bowser, Charles	LB	6-3	232	3
51	Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	218	2
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	229	8
81	Cefalo, Jimmy	WR	5-11	188	7
71	Charles, Mike	DT	6-4	283	2
76	Clark, Steve	DT	6-4	255	3
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	172	2
77	Duhe, A.J.	LB	6-4	240	8
85	Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	193	3
61	Foster, Roy	G-T	6-4	272	3
37	Franklin, Andra	FB	5-10	228	4
79	Giesler, Jon	T	6-5	260	6
74	Green, Cleveland	T	6-3	262	6
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-4	232	7
88	Heflin, Vince	WR	6-2	185	3
53	Hester, Ron	LB	6-1	226	3
31	Hill, Eddie	RB	6-2	206	6
11	Jensen, Jim	WR	6-4	215	4
87	Johnson, Dan	TE	6-3	240	3
49	Judson, William	CB	6-1	187	3
40	Kozlowski, Mike	S	6-0	198	5
67	Kuechenberg, Bob	G	6-2	255	15
68	Laakso, Eric	T	6-4	265	7
44	Lankford, Paul	CB	6-1	182	3
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-3	214	2
28	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	192	5
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9	188	11
69	Moorman, Steve	OT	6-3	270	2
22	Nathan, Tony	RB	6-0	206	6
64	Newman, Ed	G	6-2	255	12
20	Overstreet, David	RB	5-11	208	2
55	Rhone, Earnest	LB	6-2	224	9
4	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	243	2
80	Rose, Joe	TE	6-3	230	5
	Shiver, Sanders	LB	6-2	236	9
	Shull, Steve	LB	6-1	224	5
48	Small, Gerald	CB	5-11	192	7
45	Sowell, Robert	DB	5-11	175	2
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	255	5
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	220	11
52	Tautolo, Terry	LB	6-2	227	8
54	Thomas, Rodell	LB	6-2	225	4
	Tilley, Emmett	LB	5-11	240	2
60	Toews, Jeff	G	6-3	255	6
32	Vigorito, Tom	RB	5-10	190	4
5	Von Schamann, Uwe	K	6-0	188	6
41	Walker, Fulton	CB	5-10	196	4

Head Coach: Don Shula (NFL Record: 213-80-6)

1983 Data

Record: 12-4-0, 1st AFC East
Total Offense: 324.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 321.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 24.3 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 15.6 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Andra Franklin, 746 yds., 8 TDs.
Leading Passer: Dan Marino, 173-296-6, 2210 yds., 20 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Tony Nathan, 52 rcpts., 461 yds., 1 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

12	Buffalo	0
34	New England	24
14	Los Angeles Raiders	27
14	Kansas City	6
7	New Orleans	17
35	Buffalo	38
32	New York Jets	14
21	Baltimore	7
30	Los Angeles Rams	14
20	San Francisco	17
6	New England	17
37	Baltimore	0
38	Cincinnati	14
24	Houston	17
31	Atlanta	24
34	New York Jets	14

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
58	Ashley, Walker Lee	LB	6-0	240	2
33	Bell, Rick	RB	6-0	205	2
21	Bess, Rufus	CB	5-9	185	6
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5	235	11
62	Boyd, Brent	G	6-3	275	5
26	Brown, Melvin	CB	5-11	187	2
23	Brown, Ted	RB	5-10	210	6
47	Browner, Joey	DB	6-2	205	2
82	Bruer, Bob	TE	6-5	240	6
44	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	241	11
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	185	8
7	Danmeier, Rick	K	6-0	200	7
12	Dils, Steve	QB	6-1	195	6
73	Elshire, Neil	DE	6-6	260	4
50	Fowlkes, Dennis	LB	6-2	230	2
32	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6-0	228	9
90	Gregorios, Stephen	LB	6-2	228	2
61	Hamilton, Wes	G	6-3	270	9
45	Hannon, Tom	S	5-11	195	8
75	Holloway, Randy	DE	6-5	255	7
51	Hough, Jim	G	6-2	275	7
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-6	285	4
65	Johnson, Charlie	NT	6-3	275	8
52	Johnson, Dennis	LB	6-3	235	5
89	Jones, Mike	WR	5-11	176	2
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	230	3
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-2	205	8
80	LeCount, Terry	WR	5-10	185	7
39	Lee, Carl	DB	5-11	185	2
87	Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	170	4
4	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3	211	14
79	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	255	5
84	McCullum, Sam	WR	6-2	195	11
88	McDole, Mardye	WR	5-11	205	3
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2	230	11
86	Mularkey, Mike	TE	6-4	245	2
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	245	10
20	Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	180	3
49	Nord, Keith	S	6-0	195	6
22	Redwine, Jarvis	RB	5-10	205	4
1	Ricardo, Benny	K	5-10	170	7
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6	260	11
68	Rouse, Curtis	G	6-3	305	3
57	Sendlein, Robin	LB	6-3	225	4
81	Senser, Joe	TE	6-4	235	5
95	Stewart, Mark	LB	6-2	230	2
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	230	8
29	Swain, John	CB	6-1	195	4
66	Tausch, Terry	T	6-5	275	3
37	Teal, Willie	CB	5-10	195	5
27	Turner, John	S	6-0	200	7
72	White, James	NT	6-3	270	9
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11	195	9
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	210	4
34	Young, Rickey	RB	6-2	200	10

Head Coach: Les Steckel (NFL Record: 0-0)

1983 Data

Record: 8-8-0, 2nd NFC Central
Total Offense: 313.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 342.9 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 19.8 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Darrin Nelson, 642 yds., 1 TD.
Leading Passer: Steve Dils, 239-444-16, 2840 yds., 11 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Darrin Nelson, 51 rcpts., 618 yds., 0 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

27	Cleveland	21
17	San Francisco	48
19	Tampa Bay	16
20	Detroit	17
24	Dallas	37
23	Chicago	14
34	Houston	14
20	Green Bay	17
31	St. Louis	41
12	Tampa Bay	17
21	Green Bay	29
17	Pittsburgh	14
16	New Orleans	17
2	Detroit	13
13	Chicago	19
20	Cincinnati	14

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-3	270	14
55	Blackmon, Don	LB	6-3	235	4
58	Brock, Pete	OC	6-5	270	9
3	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	191	4
26	Clayborn, Ray	CB	6-0	186	8
33	Collins, Tony	RB	5-11	203	4
92	Creswell, Smiley	DE	6-4	251	2
91	Crump, George	DE	6-4	260	3
75	Cryder, Bob	OT	6-4	282	7
87	Dawson, Lin	TE	6-3	240	4
47	Dombroski, Paul	CB-S	6-0	185	5
11	Eason, Tony	QB	6-4	212	2
60	Ekern, Andy	OT	6-6	263	2
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	6
59	Golden, Tim	LB	6-1	220	3
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	210	10
68	Haley, Darryl	OT	6-4	265	3
73	Hannah, John	OG	6-3	265	12
78	Harris, Marshall	DE	6-6	265	5
70	Henson, Luther	NT	6-0	275	3
76	Holloway, Brian	OT	6-7	288	5
51	Ingram, Brian	LB	6-4	235	3
38	Roland, James	SS	6-2	191	5
83	Jones, Cedric	WR	5-11	184	3
19	Kerrigan, Mike	QB	6-3	205	2
22	Lee, Keith	CB-S	5-11	193	4
94	Lee, Keith A.	LB	6-4	230	2
49	Lewis, Darryl	TE	6-6	226	2
42	Lippett, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	2
31	Marion, Fred	FS	6-2	191	3
50	McGrew, Larry	LB	6-5	233	4
67	Moore, Steve	OT	6-4	285	2
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	181	8
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	230	11
98	Owens, Dennis	NT	6-1	258	3
35	Peoples, George	RB	6-0	215	3
88	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-5	235	7
52	Rembert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	2
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	230	2
65	Rogers, Doug	DE	6-5	260	3
25	Sanford, Rick	FS	6-1	192	6
77	Sims, Kenneth	DE	6-5	271	3
27	Smith, Ricky	CB-KR	6-0	182	3
81	Starring, Stephen	WR	5-10	172	2
5	Steinfort, Fred	K	5-11	190	8
30	Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6-0	227	7
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	3
34	van Eeghen, Mark	RB	6-2	226	11
82	Weathers, Clarence	WR	5-9	170	2
24	Weathers, Robert	RB	6-2	222	3
53	Weishuhn, Clayton	LB	6-2	221	3
62	Wheeler, Dwight	OC	6-3	274	6
80	Williams, Brooks	TE	6-4	226	7
72	Williams, Lester	NT	6-3	272	3
90	Williams, Toby	DE	6-3	254	2
48	Wilson, Darryal	WR	6-0	182	2
61	Wooten, Ron	OG	6-4	273	3
2	Zendejas, Joaquin	K	5-11	176	2

Head Coach: Ron Meyer (NFL Record: 13-13)

1983 Data

Record: 8-8-0, T2nd AFC East
Total Offense: 331.9 yds. per game
Total Defense: 348.5 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 17.1 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 18.1 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Tony Collins, 1049 yds., 10 TDs.
Leading Passer: Steve Grogan, 168-303-12, 2411 yds., 15 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Stanley Morgan, 58 rcpts., 863 yds., 2 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

23	Baltimore	29
24	Miami	34
23	New York Jets	13
28	Pittsburgh	23
13	San Francisco	33
7	Baltimore	12
37	San Diego	21
31	Buffalo	0
13	Atlanta	24
21	Buffalo	7
17	Miami	6
0	Cleveland	30
3	New York Jets	26
7	New Orleans	0
21	Los Angeles Rams	7
6	Seattle	24

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	210	3
47	Austin, Cliff	RB	6-0	190	2
50	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4	226	7
85	Brenner, Hoby	TE	6-4	240	4
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	285	5
75	Clark, Bruce	DE	6-3	275	3
68	Clark, Kelvin	G	6-3	265	6
83	Duckett, Kenny	WR	6-0	187	3
63	Edelman, Brad	G	6-6	265	3
99	Elliott, Tony	NT	6-2	265	3
14	Erxleben, Russell	P	6-4	221	5
77	Fields, Angelo	T	6-6	314	4
46	Gajan, Hokie	FB	5-11	220	3
20	Gary, Russell	SS	5-11	195	4
88	Goodlow, Eugene	WR	6-2	190	2
72	Gray, Leon	T	6-3	270	12
86	Groth, Jeff	WR	5-10	175	6
87	Hardy, Larry	TE	6-3	230	7
62	Hill, John	C	6-2	260	13
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	240	4
34	Johnson, Bobby	DB	6-0	191	2
60	Korte, Steve	G	6-2	270	2
52	Kovach, Jim	LB	6-2	225	6
21	Krimm, John	FS	6-2	190	2
64	Lafary, Dave	T	6-7	280	8
93	Lewis, Gary	NT	6-3	260	2
98	Lewis, Reggie	DE	6-2	260	3
29	Lewis, Rodney	CB	5-11	190	2
59	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	220	2
84	Mauti, Rich	WR	6-0	195	7
19	Merkens, Guido	QB	6-1	195	7
74	Moore, Derland	NT	6-4	270	12
55	Nairne, Rob	LB	6-4	227	8
66	Oubre, Louis	G	6-4	262	3
51	Paul, Whitney	LB	6-3	220	9
53	Pelluer, Scott	LB	6-2	220	4
32	Perry, Vernon	SS	6-2	210	6
76	Pietrzak, Jim	C	6-5	260	10
25	Poe, Johnnie	CB	6-1	185	4
58	Redd, Glen	LB	6-1	225	3
38	Rogers, George	HB	6-2	229	4
41	Rogers, Jimmy	HB	5-10	190	5
80	Scott, Lindsay	WR	6-1	190	3
16	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	210	15
27	Stemrick, Greg	CB	5-11	185	10
82	Tice, John	TE	6-5	242	2
13	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2	206	9
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	275	4
49	Wattelet, Frank	FS	6-0	185	4
44	Waymer, Dave	CB	6-1	195	5
94	Wilks, Jim	DE	6-5	260	4
18	Wilson, Dave	QB	6-3	210	3
45	Wilson, Tim	FB	6-3	235	8
30	Wilson, Wayne	RB	6-3	220	6
56	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	230	8
89	Young, Tyrone	WR	6-6	190	2

Head Coach: O.A. (Bum) Phillips (NFL Record: 71-58)

1983 Data

Record: 8-8, 3rd NFC West
Total Offense: 308.6 yds. per game
Total Defense: 293.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 19.9 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.1 ppg.
Leading Rusher: George Rogers, 1144 yds., 5 TDs.
Leading Passer: Ken Stabler, 1988 yds., 9 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Jeff Groth, 49 rcpts., 585 yds., 1 TD.

1983 RESULTS

28	St. Louis	17
27	Los Angeles Rams	30
34	Chicago	31
20	Dallas	21
17	Miami	7
19	Atlanta	17
13	San Francisco	32
24	Tampa Bay	21
21	Buffalo	27
27	Atlanta	10
0	San Francisco	27
28	New York Jets	31
17	Minnesota	16
0	New England	7
20	Philadelphia	17
24	Los Angeles Rams	26

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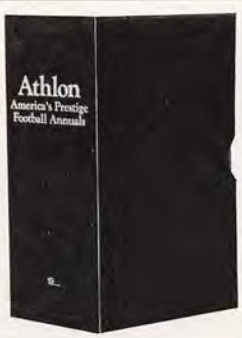

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NEW YORK GIANTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
67	Ard, Billy	G	6-3	250	4
73	Belcher, Kevin	OG	6-3	255	2
60	Benson, Brad	T	6-3	258	7
45	Bright, Leon	RB	5-9	192	4
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	255	4
26	Carpenter, Rob	RB	6-1	230	8
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	245	9
74	Cook, Charles	NT	6-3	255	2
29	Currier, Bill	DB	6-0	202	8
46	Dennis, Mike	CB	5-10	190	5
88	Eddings, Floyd	WR	5-11	177	3
37	Flowers, Larry	S	6-1	190	4
66	Foote, Chris	C	6-3	262	5
83	Gray, Earnest	WR	6-3	195	6
6	Haji Sheikh, Ali	K	6-0	172	2
79	Hardison, Dee	DE	6-4	269	7
36	Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	198	5
54	Headen, Andy	LB	6-5	230	2
27	Heater, Larry	RB	5-11	205	5
82	Hugger, Keith	WR	5-11	175	2
61	Hughes, Ernie	C	6-3	265	6
57	Hunt, Byron	LB	6-5	230	4
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	205	11
	Jones, Robbie	LB	6-2	230	2
43	Kinard, Terry	S	6-1	190	2
72	King, Gordon	T	6-6	275	7
	Magwood, Frank	WR	6-0	188	2
51	Marion, Frank	LB	6-3	228	8
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	2
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	245	10
39	Mayock, Mike	S	6-2	198	3
33	McDaniel, LeCharls	CB	5-9	170	4
76	McGriff, Curtis	DE	6-5	270	5
52	McLaughlin, Joe	LB	6-1	235	6
71	Merrill, Casey	DE	6-4	255	6
89	Miller, Mike	WR	5-11	182	2
85	Mistler, John	WR	6-2	186	4
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5-7	190	3
84	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6-3	238	2
81	Mullady, Tom	TE	6-3	232	6
77	Neill, Bill	NT	6-4	255	4
	Nelson, Karl	OT	6-6	272	2
9	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1	194	11
86	Perkins, Johnny	WR	6-2	205	8
17	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-1	190	6
78	Sally, Jerome	DT	6-3	260	3
80	Scott, Malcolm	TE	6-4	240	2
44	Shaw, Pete	S	5-10	183	8
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	216	6
63	Steinfeld, Al	C	6-5	256	4
65	Tautolo, John	G	6-3	260	3
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	237	4
38	Tuggle, John	RB	6-1	210	2
68	Turner, J.T.	G	6-3	250	8
59	Umphrey, Rich	C	6-3	255	3
10	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	12
58	Whittington, Mike	LB	6-2	220	5
87	Williams, Byron	WR	6-2	180	2
	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	195	2
25	Woolfolk, Butch	RB	6-1	207	3

Head Coach: Bill Parcells (NFL Record: 3-12-1)

1983 Data

Record: 3-12-1, 5th NFC East
Total Offense: 330.3 yds. per game
Total Defense: 312.1 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 16.7 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 21.7 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Butch Woolfolk, 857 yds., 4 TDs.
Leading Passer: Scott Brunner, 190-386-22, 2516 yds., 9 TDs
Leading Receiver: Earnest Gray, 78 rcpts., 1139 yds., 5 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

6	Los Angeles Rams	16
16	Atlanta	13
13	Dallas	28
27	Green Bay	3
34	San Diego	41
13	Philadelphia	17
17	Kansas City	38
20	St. Louis	20
20	Dallas	38
9	Detroit	15
17	Washington	33
23	Philadelphia	0
12	Los Angeles Raiders	27
6	St. Louis	10
12	Seattle	17
22	Washington	31

NEW YORK JETS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	260	8
35	Augustyniak, Mike	FB	5-11	226	4
95	Banker, Ted	C	6-2	260	2
31	Barber, Marion	FB	6-3	224	3
78	Bennett, Barry	DT-DE	6-4	257	7
64	Bingham, Guy	C-G-T	6-3	255	5
54	Blinka, Stan	LB	6-2	222	6
89	Brown, Preston	WR	5-11	187	4
86	Bruckner, Nick	WR	5-11	185	2
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3	232	9
88	Coombs, Tom	TE	6-3	227	3
50	Crable, Bob	LB	6-3	232	3
52	Eliopulos, Jim	LB	6-2	229	2
37	Emmett, Marcene	S	6-0	195	2
65	Fields, Joe	C	6-2	253	10
38	Floyd, George	S-CB	5-11	190	3
81	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	6-1	182	7
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	265	6
94	Guilbeau, Rusty	DE	6-4	260	3
42	Harper, Bruce	RB-KR	5-8	177	8
34	Hector, Johnny	RB	5-11	197	2
84	Humphery, Bobby	WR	5-10	170	2
53	Hunter, Jimmy	LB	6-2	225	2
40	Jackson, Bobby	CB	5-10	180	7
27	Johnson, Jesse	S-CB	6-3	188	5
80	Jones, Johnny "Lam"	WR	5-11	180	5
73	Klecko, Joe	DT	6-3	263	8
30	Klever, Rocky	RB	6-3	225	2
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	189	11
22	Lewis, Kenny	RB	6-0	196	4
59	Lilja, George	C	6-4	250	3
71	Luscinski, Jim	T-G	6-5	275	3
29	Lynn, Johnny	CB-S	6-0	198	5
93	Lyons, Marty	DT	6-5	265	6
68	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	270	2
24	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	218	4
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	233	5
20	Mullen, Davlin	CB-KR	6-1	177	2
77	Neil, Kenny	DE-DT	6-4	255	4
16	O'Brien, Ken	QB	6-4	210	2
62	Pellegrini, Joe	C-G	6-4	252	3
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5	260	8
15	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2	189	8
28	Ray, Darrol	FS	6-1	198	5
76	Rudolph, Ben	DT-DE	6-5	266	4
10	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	210	7
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3	269	9
48	Schroy, Ken	SS	6-2	198	8
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	7
87	Sohn, Kurt	WR-KR	5-11	180	4
21	Springs, Kirk	S-CB	6-0	192	4
70	Waldemore, Stan	C-T	6-4	269	7
90	Walker, John	DT	6-6	262	2
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	179	8
72	Ward, Chris	T	6-3	269	7
57	Woodring, John	LB	6-2	232	4

Head Coach: Joe Walton (NFL Record: 7-9)

1983 Data

Record: 7-9-0, T4th AFC East
Total Offense: 343.3 yds. per game
Total Defense: 331.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 19.6 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 20.7 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Freeman McNeil, 654 yds., 1 TD.
Leading Passer: Richard Todd, 308-518-26, 3478 yds., 18 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Wesley Walker, 61 rcpts., 868 yds., 7 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

41	San Diego	29
10	Seattle	17
13	New England	23
27	Los Angeles Rams	24
34	Buffalo	10
7	Cleveland	10
14	Miami	32
21	Atlanta	27
27	San Francisco	13
14	Baltimore	17
17	Buffalo	24
31	New Orleans	28
26	New England	3
10	Baltimore	6
7	Pittsburgh	34
14	Miami	34

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
96	Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6–2	255	3
63	Baker, Ron	G	6–4	250	7
98	Brown, Greg	DE	6–5	240	4
71	Clarke, Ken	NT	6–2	255	7
57	Cowher, Bill	LB	6–3	225	4
94	Darby, Byron	DE	6–4	250	2
	Dennard, Mark	C	6–1	252	6
25	DeVaughn, Dennis	CB	5–10	175	3
46	Edwards, Herman	CB	6–0	190	8
24	Ellis, Ray	S	6–1	192	4
39	Everett, Major	FB	5–10	207	2
67	Feehery, Gerry	C-G	6–2	268	2
29	Foules, Elbert	CB	5–11	185	2
72	Fritzsche, Jim	T-G	6–8	265	2
58	Griggs, Anthony	LB	6–3	230	3
26	Haddix, Michael	RB	6–2	225	2
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6–3	260	9
35	Harrington, Perry	RB	5–11	210	5
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6–8	275	7
85	Hoover, Melvin	WR	6–0	185	3
48	Hopkins, Wes	FS	6–1	205	2
7	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6–2	196	11
	Jelesky, Tom	T	6–6	290	2
84	Kab, Vyto	TE	6–5	240	3
73	Kenney, Steve	G	6–4	262	5
52	Kraynak, Rich	LB	6–1	221	2
41	Logan, Randy	SS	6–1	195	12
10	Mangrum, Dave	QB	6–4	196	2
64	Miraldi, Dean	T-G	6–5	254	3
74	Mitchell, Leonard	T	6–7	272	4
31	Montgomery, Wilbert	RB	5–10	195	8
34	Oliver, Hubie	FB	5–10	212	4
6	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6–2	205	14
62	Perot, Petey	G	6–2	261	6
9	Pisarcik, Joe	QB	6–4	220	8
82	Quick, Mike	WR	6–2	190	3
56	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6–2	225	6
4	Runager, Max	P	6–1	189	6
87	Sampleton, Lawrence	TE	6–5	233	3
21	Sciarra, John	S	5–11	185	7
53	Schulz, Jody	LB	6–4	235	2
76	Sisemore, Jerry	T	6–4	265	12
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6–4	240	6
93	Strauthers, Tom	DE	6–4	255	2
54	Valentine, Zack	LB	6–2	220	6
75	Walters, Stan	C	6–6	275	13
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6–4	230	7
59	Williams, Joel	LB	6–1	220	6
32	Williams, Michael	RB	6–2	217	2
22	Wilson, Brenard	FS	6–0	175	6
83	Woodruff, Tony	WR	6–0	175	3
89	Young, Glen	WR-KR	6–2	205	2
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6–1	181	5

Head Coach: Marion Campbell (NFL Record: 5-11-0)

1983 Data

Record: 5-11-0, 4th NFC East
Total Offense: 283.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 340.4 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 14.6 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 20.1 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Hubie Oliver, 434 yds., 1 TD.
Leading Passer: Ron Jaworski, 235-446-18, 3315 yds., 20 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Mike Quick, 69 rcpts., 1409 yds., 13 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

22	San Francisco	17
13	Washington	23
13	Denver	10
11	St. Louis	14
28	Atlanta	24
17	New York Giants	13
7	Dallas	37
6	Chicago	7
21	Baltimore	22
20	Dallas	27
14	Chicago	17
0	New York Giants	23
24	Washington	28
13	Los Angeles Rams	9
17	New Orleans	20
7	St. Louis	31

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
34	Abercrombie, Walter	RB	5–11	210	3
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5–11	156	3
65	Beasley, Tom	DE-NT	6–5	248	7
25	Best, Greg	S	5–10	185	2
54	Bingham, Craig	LB	6–2	211	3
71	Boures, Emil	G-C	6–1	261	3
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6–3	210	15
79	Brown, Larry	OT	6–4	270	14
80	Capers, Wayne	WR	6–2	193	2
33	Clayton, Harvey	CB	5–9	170	2
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6–2	220	8
5	Colquitt, Craig	P	6–1	182	6
77	Courson, Steve	G	6–1	270	7
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE	6–5	260	9
45	Davis, Russell	RB	6–1	231	5
55	Donnalley, Rick	C-G	6–2	257	3
88	Dunaway, Craig	TE	6–2	233	2
67	Dunn, Gary	NT	6–3	260	8
86	Garrity, Gregg	WR	5–10	171	2
92	Gary, Keith	DE	6–3	255	2
95	Goodman, John	DE	6–6	250	4
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6–2	225	13
43	Harris, Tim	RB	5–9	206	2
27	Hawthorne, Greg	WR-RB	6–2	225	6
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6–1	220	3
68	Hull, Jay	G	6–2	240	1
62	Ilkin, Tunch	OT	6–3	255	5
29	Johnson, Ron	S	5–10	200	7
90	Kohrs, Bob	LB	6–3	235	4
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6–4	220	11
50	Little, David	LB	6–1	220	4
16	Malone, Mark	QB	6–4	223	5
57	Merriweather, Mike	LB	6–2	215	3
97	Meyer, John	OT	6–6	257	1
64	Nelson, Edmund	NT-DE	6–3	270	3
44	Odom, Henry	RB-KR	5–10	200	2
66	Petersen, Ted	OT	6–5	245	8
30	Pollard, Frank	RB	5–10	218	5
10	Rash, Lou	CB	5–9	170	1
87	Rodgers, John	TE	6–2	220	3
63	Rostosky, Pete	OT	6–4	245	1
59	Seabaugh, Todd	LB	6–4	220	1
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5–11	190	11
81	Skansi, Paul	WR-KR	5–11	190	2
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6–2	191	11
85	Sweeney, Calvin	WR	6–2	190	5
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6–3	220	12
41	Washington, Sam	CB	5–8	180	3
52	Webster, Mike	C	6–1	250	11
21	Williams, Eric	S	5–11	183	1
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6–1	251	3
61	Wingle, Blake	G	6–2	267	2
00	Woodley, David	QB	6–2	204	5
73	Wolfley, Craig	G	6–1	265	
49	Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	5–11	198	6
22	Woods, Rick	S	6–0	196	3

Head Coach: Chuck Noll (NFL Record: 147-87-1)

1983 Data

Record: 10-6-0, 1st AFC Central
Total Offense: 313.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 295.5 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.2 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 18.9 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Franco Harris, 1007 yds., 5 TDs.
Leading Passer: Cliff Stoudt, 197-381-21, 2553 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Calvin Sweeney, 39 rcpts., 577 yds., 5 TDS

1983 RESULTS

10	Denver	14
25	Green Bay	21
40	Houston	28
23	New England	28
17	Houston	10
24	Cincinnati	14
44	Cleveland	17
27	Seattle	21
17	Tampa Bay	12
26	San Diego	3
24	Baltimore	13
14	Minnesota	17
3	Detroit	45
10	Cincinnati	23
34	New York Jets	7
17	Cleveland	30

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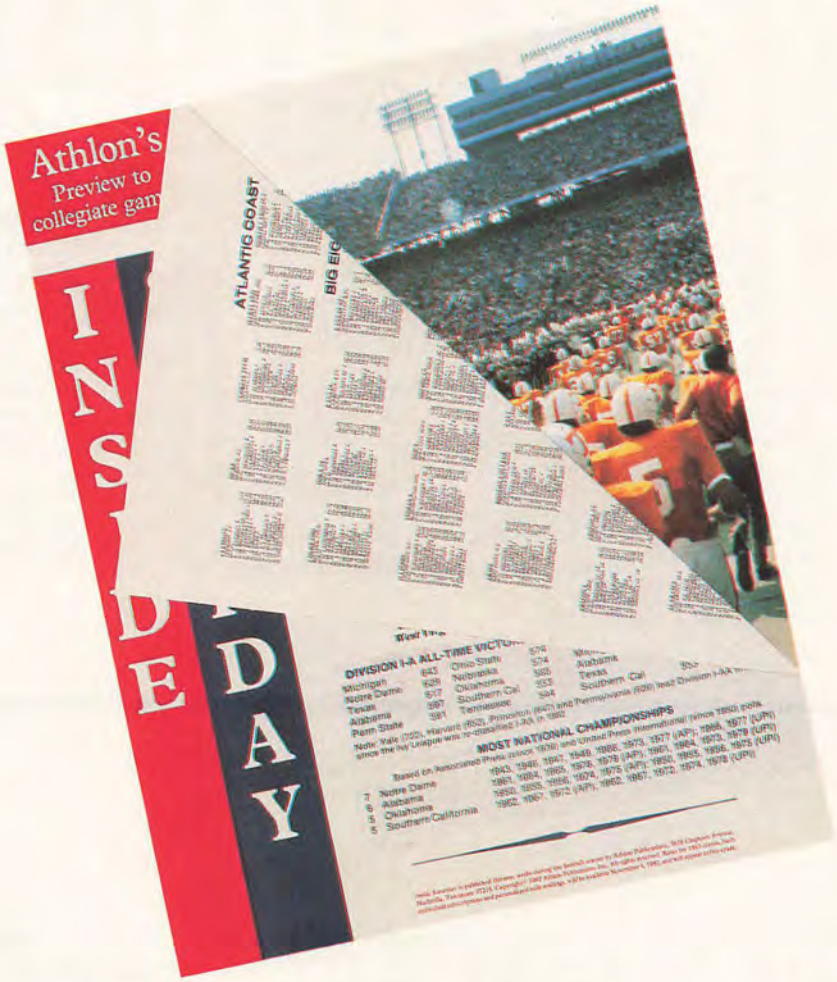

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ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
58	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-3	230	4
51	Allerman, Kurt	LB	6-2	232	8
32	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	220	6
61	Audick, Dan	G	6-3	253	7
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	260	7
52	Baker, Charlie	LB	6-2	234	5
82	Bird, Steve	WR	5-11	171	2
18	Birdsong, Carl	P	6-0	192	4
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	268	6
69	Brown, Rush	DT	6-3	257	5
64	Clark, Randy	C	6-3	254	5
66	Dardar, Ramsey	DT	6-2	264	2
59	Davis, Paul	LB	6-3	210	4
72	Dierdorf, Dan	C	6-3	290	13
73	Duda, Mark	DT	6-3	263	2
31	Ferrell, Earl	RB	6-0	215	3
65	Galloway, David	DT	6-3	277	3
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-0	195	6
75	Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	258	5
35	Griffin, Jeff	CB	6-0	185	4
78	Grooms, Elois	DT	6-4	250	10
39	Harrell, Willard	RB	5-8	182	10
28	Harris, Bob	LB	6-2	205	2
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1	210	19
46	Heflin, Victor	CB	6-0	184	2
54	Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	235	4
89	LaFleur, Greg	TE	6-4	236	4
16	Lisch, Rusty	QB	6-3	215	5
15	Lomax, Neil	QB	6-3	214	4
40	Love, Randy	RB	6-1	205	6
47	Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	190	2
80	Marsh, Doug	TE	6-3	238	5
76	Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	250	5
87	McGill, Eddie	TE	6-6	240	3
30	Mitchell, Stump	RB	5-9	188	4
24	Morris, Wayne	RB	6-0	208	9
38	Nelson, Lee	S	5-10	185	9
11	O'Donoghue, Neil	K	6-6	210	8
57	Parlavecchio, Chet	LB	6-2	225	2
23	Perrin, Benny	S	6-2	175	3
85	Pittman, Danny	WR	6-2	205	5
70	Plunkett, Art	T	6-7	262	4
50	Puki, Craig	LB	6-1	232	5
63	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-4	278	3
26	Schmitt, George	S	5-11	193	2
56	Scott, Carlos	C	6-4	300	2
53	Shaffer, Craig	LB	6-1	230	3
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-4	260	3
84	Shumann, Mike	WR	6-1	185	7
45	Smith, Leonard	CB	5-11	190	2
44	Smith, Wayne	CB	6-0	170	5
68	Stieve, Terry	G	6-2	265	8
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	178	9
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	184	2
55	Whitaker, Bill	LB	6-0	182	4

Head Coach: Jim Hanifan (NFL Record: 25-32-1)

1983 Data

Record: 8-7-1, 3rd NFC East
Total Offense: 321.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 312.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 23.4 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 26.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Ottis Anderson, 1270 yds., 5 TDs.
Leading Passer: Neil Lomax, 209-354-11, 2636 yds., 24 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Roy Green, 78 rcpts., 1227 yds., 14 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

17	New Orleans	28
17	Dallas	34
27	San Francisco	42
14	Philadelphia	11
14	Kansas City	38
14	Washington	38
34	Tampa Bay	27
20	New York Giants	20
41	Minnesota	31
7	Washington	45
33	Seattle	28
44	San Diego	14
17	Dallas	35
10	New York Giants	6
34	Los Angeles Raiders	24
31	Philadelphia	7

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
91	Ackerman, Rick	DE	6-4	255	3
6	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-1	179	8
50	Bradley, Carlos	OLB	6-0	226	4
21	Brooks. James	RB	5-9	177	4
61	Brown, Don	T	6-6	262	2
7	Buford. Maury	P	6-0	185	3
22	Byrd, Gill	CB	5-11	191	2
25	Cappelletti, John	RB	6-1	215	10
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	6-0	183	7
77	Claphan, Sam	T	6-6	267	4
	Downing, Walt	C-G	6-3	270	7
82	Duckworth, Bobby	WR	6-3	197	3
78	Ehin, Chuck	DE	6-4	254	2
90	Elko, Bill	T	6-5	277	2
56	Evans, Larry	ILB	6-2	220	9
76	Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	241	4
84	Fortune, Hosea	WR	6-0	176	2
14	Fouts, Don	QB	6-3	205	12
48	Fox, Tim	FS	5-11	186	9
75	Gissinger, Andrew	T	6-5	277	3
69	Gofourth, Derrel	G	6-3	260	8
58	Green, Mike	ILB	6-0	226	2
28	Greene, Ken	S	6-3	203	7
43	Gregor, Bob	S	6-2	190	4
20	Henderson, Reuben	CB	6-1	188	4
88	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	240	4
41	Jackson, Earnest	RB	5-10	208	2
40	Jodat, Jim	RB	5-11	213	8
79	Johnson, Gary	DE	6-2	255	10
18	Joiner. Charlie	WR	5-11	180	16
57	King, Linden	OLB	6-5	245	7
64	Loewen, Chuck	G-T	6-4	264	4
51	Lowe, Woodrow	OLB	6-0	226	9
11	Luther, Ed	QB	6-3	210	5
	Kelley, Brian	LB	6-3	222	12
62	Macek, Don	C	6-2	260	9
12	Mathison, Bruce	QB	6-3	210	2
60	McKnight, Dennis	C-G	6-3	260	3
24	McPherson, Miles	CB	6-0	183	3
46	Muncie, Chuck	RB	6-2	228	10
	Neil, Kenny	DE	6-4	255	4
55	Nelson, Derrie	ILB	6-1	234	2
38	Pleasant, Mike	RB	6-1	195	1
52	Preston. Ray	ILB	6-0	220	9
	Salaam, Abdul	NT	6-3	269	9
66	Shields, Billy	T	6-8	284	10
85	Sievers, Eric	TE	6-4	233	4
54	Smith, Billy Ray	ILB	6-3	239	2
47	Smith, Sherman	RB	6-4	225	9
59	Thrift, Cliff	ILB	6-1	232	6
	Thomas, Jewerl	RB	5-10	228	5
23	Walters, Danny	CB	6-1	187	2
67	White, Ed	G	6-2	279	16
63	Wilkerson, Doug	G	6-3	258	15
80	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	251	6
49	Young, Andre	SS	6-0	207	3

Head Coach: Don Coryell (NFL Record: 98-65-1)

1983 Data

Record: 6-10-0, T4th AFC West
Total Offense: 387.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 372.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 22.4 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 28.9 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Chuck Muncie, 886 yds., 12 TDs.
Leading Passer: Dan Fouts, 215-340-15, 2975 yds., 20 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Kellen Winslow, 88 rcpts., 1172 yds., 8 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

29	New York Jets	41
17	Kansas City	14
31	Seattle	34
24	Cleveland	30
41	New York Giants	34
28	Seattle	21
21	New England	37
6	Denver	14
24	Washington	27
3	Pittsburgh	26
24	Dallas	23
14	St. Louis	44
31	Denver	7
10	Los Angeles Raiders	42
41	Kansas City	38
14	Los Angeles Raiders	30

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
68	Ayers, John	G	6-5	265	8
7	Benjamin, Guy	QB	6-3	210	7
44	Blackmore, Richard	CB	5-10	174	6
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	248	5
57	Bunz, Dan	LB	6-4	225	6
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	212	7
15	Clark, Bryan	QB	6-2	196	2
87	Clark, Dwight	WR	6-4	210	6
47	Collier, Tim	CB	6-0	176	9
89	Cooper, Earl	TE-RB	6-2	227	5
33	Craig, Roger	FB	6-0	222	2
51	Cross, Randy	G	6-3	265	9
74	Dean, Fred	DE	6-2	236	10
84	Durham, Darius	WR	6-2	185	2
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	220	2
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	273	11
54	Ferrari, Ron	LB	6-0	212	3
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	9
24	Gervais, Rick	S	5-11	190	4
75	Harty, John	DT	6-4	263	4
22	Hicks, Dwight	S	6-1	192	6
28	Holmoe, Tom	CB-S	6-2	180	2
	Hubble, Robert	DE	6-7	242	1
	Kelcher, Louie	DT	6-5	310	10
66	Kennedy, Allan	T	6-7	275	3
	Lawson, Lonnie	S	6-0	185	1
	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2	238	11
42	Lott, Ronnie	S-CB	6-0	199	4
53	McColl, Milt	LB	6-6	230	4
43	McLemore, Dana	KR-CB	5-10	183	3
	Macaulay, John	C	6-3	254	1
32	Monroe, Carl	RB-KR	5-8	166	2
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	6
60	Montgomery, B.	LB	6-2	236	2
25	Moore, Jeff	RB	6-0	196	5
	Morrison, Tim	G	6-3	260	1
63	Moten, Gary	LB	6-1	210	2
83	Nehemiah, Renaldo	WR	6-1	183	3
3	Orosz, Tom	P	6-1	204	4
77	Paris, Wm. "Bubba"	T	6-6	295	2
65	Pillers, Lawrence	DT-DE	6-4	250	9
56	Quillan, Fred	C	6-5	266	7
64	Reynolds, Jack	LB	6-1	232	15
30	Ring, Bill	RB	5-10	205	4
61	Sapolu, Jesse	G	6-4	260	2
88	Solomon, Freddie	WR	5-11	188	10
72	Stover, Jeff	NT	6-5	275	3
79	Stuckey, Jim	DE	6-4	253	5
	Tuiasosopo, Manu	NT	6-3	270	6
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	219	5
26	Tyler, Wendell	RB	5-10	200	7
14	Wersching, Ray	PK	5-11	210	12
27	Williamson, Carlton	S	6-0	204	4
85	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	210	4
	Wood, Mike	PK	5-11	205	5
21	Wright, Eric	CB	6-1	180	4

Head Coach: Bill Walsh (NFL Record: 38-40)

1983 Data

Record: 10-6-0, 1st NFC West
Total Offense: 378.4 yds. per game
Total Defense: 324.2 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 27.0 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 18.3 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Wendell Tyler, 856 yds., 4 TDs.
Leading Passer: Joe Montana, 332-515-12, 3910 yds., 26 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Dwight Clark, 70 rcpts., 840 yds., 8 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

17	Philadelphia	22
48	Minnesota	17
42	St. Louis	27
24	Atlanta	20
33	New England	13
7	Los Angeles Rams	10
32	New Orleans	13
45	Los Angeles Rams	35
13	New York Jets	27
17	Miami	20
27	New Orleans	0
24	Atlanta	28
3	Chicago	13
35	Tampa Bay	21
23	Buffalo	10
42	Dallas	17

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
76	August, Steve	T	6-5	258	8
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-5	265	4
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-2	190	10
82	Brown, Freddie	WR	5-9	162	1
32	Bryant, Cullen	FB	6-1	236	12
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	270	3
59	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	252	7
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	225	7
83	Castor, Chris	WR	6-0	170	2
31	Dixon, Zachary	RB	6-1	204	6
33	Doornink, Dan	FB	6-3	210	7
35	Dufek, Don	S	6-0	195	8
66	Dugan, Bill	G	6-4	271	4
45	Easley, Kenny	S	6-3	206	4
64	Essink, Ron	T	6-6	260	5
56	Gaines, Greg	LB	6-3	220	3
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	255	5
75	Hardy, Robert	NT	6-2	250	5
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	200	7
69	Hernandez, Matt	T	6-6	260	2
63	Hicks, Mark	LB	6-2	225	2
46	Hughes, David	FB	6-0	220	4
70	Irvin, Darrell	DE	6-4	255	5
29	Jackson, Harold	WR	5-10	175	17
55	Jackson, Michael	LB	6-1	220	6
24	Jackson, Terry	CB	5-11	197	7
85	Johns, Paul	WR	5-11	170	4
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	193	3
62	Kauahi, Kani	C	6-2	260	3
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	185	5
37	Lane, Eric	RB	6-0	195	4
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	9
67	McKenzie, Reggie	G	6-5	255	13
51	Merriman, Sam	LB	6-3	225	2
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	240	3
21	Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	201	2
72	Nash, Joe	NT	6-3	250	3
52	Norman, Joe	LB	6-1	220	5
61	Pratt, Robert	G	6-4	250	11
57	Robinson, Shelton	LB	6-2	233	3
	Scales, Dwight	WR	6-2	182	8
58	Scholtz, Bruce	LB	6-6	240	3
42	Simpson, Keith	CB	6-1	195	7
86	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	250	4
89	Walker, Byron	WR	6-4	190	3
28	Warner, Curt	RB	5-11	205	2
8	West, Jeff	P	6-2	205	9
54	Williams, Eugene	LB	6-1	220	3
15	Wray, Steve	QB	6-2	215	1
87	Young, Charle	TE	6-4	234	12
50	Youngblood, Jim	LB	6-3	231	12
10	Zorn, Jim	QB	6-2	200	9

Head Coach: Chuck Knox (NFL Record: 100-58-1)

1983 Data

Record: 9-7-0, T2nd AFC West
Total Offense: 318.3 yds. per game
Total Defense: 376.8 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 25.2 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 24.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: Curt Warner, 1449 yds., 13 TDs.
Leading Passer: Dave Krieg, 147-243-11, 2139 yds., 18 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Steve Largent, 72 rcpts., 1074 yds., 11 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

13	Kansas City	17
17	New York Jets	10
34	San Diego	31
17	Washington	27
24	Cleveland	9
21	San Diego	28
38	Los Angeles Raiders	36
21	Pittsburgh	27
34	Los Angeles Raiders	21
27	Denver	19
28	St. Louis	33
27	Denver	38
51	Kansas City	48
10	Dallas	35
17	New York Giants	12
24	New England	6

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
69	Arbubakrr, Hasson	DE	6-4	250	2
46	Armstrong, Adger	RB	6-0	225	5
61	Bailey, Don	C	6-3	250	1
30	Barrett, David	RB	6-0	235	2
82	Bell, Jerry	TE	6-5	225	3
83	Bell, Theo	WR	6-0	190	8
52	Brantley, Scot	LB	6-1	230	5
80	Branton, Gene	WR	6-4	225	1
34	Brown, Cedric	DB	6-2	200	8
77	Bujnoch, Glenn	OG	6-6	265	9
78	Cannon, John	DE	6-5	260	3
3	Capece, Bill	PK	5-7	170	4
87	Carter, Gerald	WR	6-1	190	5
28	Carver, Melvin	RB	5-11	215	3
23	Castille, Jeremiah	DB	5-10	175	2
71	Chickillo, Tony	NT	6-3	255	1
20	Colzie, Neal	DB	6-2	205	10
33	Cotney, Mark	DB	6-0	205	9
58	Davis, Jeff	LB	6-0	230	3
	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	205	8
	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10	220	8
62	Farrell, Sean	OL	6-3	260	3
5	Garcia, Frank	P	6-0	205	2
88	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	240	8
53	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	225	4
60	Grimes, Randy	OL	6-4	265	2
8	Hewko, Bob	QB	6-3	195	2
21	Holt, John	DB	5-11	175	4
89	House, Kevin	WR	6-1	175	5
59	Johnson, Cecil	LB	6-2	235	8
51	Judie, Ed	LB	6-2	235	3
79	Kaplan, Ken	OT	6-4	275	1
7	Komlo, Jeff	QB	6-2	195	6
29	LaBeaux, Sandy	DB	6-3	210	2
76	Logan, David	DT	6-2	250	6
64	Lawry, Quentin	LB	6-2	235	4
24	Morris, Thomas	DB	5-11	175	3
1	Morton, Michael	KR	5-8	180	3
86	Obradovich, Jim	TE	6-2	225	10
26	Owens, James	RB	5-11	200	6
75	Reavis, Dave	OT	6-5	265	10
43	Reece, Beasley	DB	6-1	195	9
66	Reese, Booker	DE	6-6	260	3
74	Sanders, Gene	OT	6-3	280	6
63	Selmon, Lee Roy	DE	6-3	250	9
22	Smith, Johnny Ray	DB	5-9	185	3
72	Snell, Ray	OG	6-4	265	5
55	Spradlin, Danny	LB	6-1	235	4
70	Thomas, Kelly	OT	6-6	270	2
41	Thomas, Norris	DB	6-0	180	8
14	Thompson, Jack	QB	6-3	220	5
56	Thompson, Robert	LB	6-3	225	2
81	Tyler, Andre		6-0	180	3
40	Washington, Mike	DB	6-2	200	9
90	White, Brad	DT	6-2	255	4
32	Wilder, James	RB	6-3	220	4
85	Witte, Mark	TE	6-3	235	2
50	Wilson, Steve	C	6-4	270	9
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2	230	10

Head Coach: John McKay (NFL Record: 39-83-1)

1983 Data

Record: 2-14-0, 5th NFC Central
Total Offense: 279.8 yds. per game
Total Defense: 337.3 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 15.1 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 23.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: James Wilder, 640 yds., 4 TDs.
Leading Passer: Jack Thompson, 249-423-21, 2906 yds., 18 TDs.
Leading Receiver: James Wilder, 57 rcpts., 380 yds., 2 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

0	Detroit	11
10	Chicago	17
16	Minnesota	19
17	Cincinnati	23
14	Green Bay	55
24	Dallas	27
27	St. Louis	34
21	New Orleans	24
12	Pittsburgh	17
17	Minnesota	12
0	Cleveland	20
0	Chicago	27
33	Houston	24
21	San Francisco	35
9	Green Bay	12
20	Detroit	23

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.
58	Anderson, Stuart	LB	6-1	224	3
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	250	5
69	Brooks, Perry	DT	6-3	270	7
87	Brown, Charlie	WR	5-10	179	3
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	295	12
41	Carpenter, Brian	CB-S	5-10	167	3
48	Coffey, Ken	SS	6-0	190	2
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	6
54	Cronan, Peter	LB	6-2	238	7
32	Dean, Vernon	CB	5-11	178	3
86	Didier, Clint	TE	6-5	240	3
26	Evans, Reggie	RB	5-11	201	2
	Gandy, Geff	LB	6-1	228	2
89	Garrett, Alvin	WR	5-7	185	5
	Goosby, Rodney	WR	6-2	190	2
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	4
28	Green, Darrell	CB-KR	5-8	170	2
68	Grimm, Russ	G	6-3	275	4
5	Hayes, Jeff	P	5-11	175	3
8	Holly, Bob	QB	6-2	196	3
61	Huff, Ken	G	6-4	265	10
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	298	4
22	Jordan, Curtis	SS	6-2	205	8
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6-2	218	4
67	Kimball, Bruce	G	6-2	260	3
50	Kubin, Larry	LB	6-2	238	3
62	Laster, Don	T	6-5	290	3
12	Laufenberg, Babe	QB	6-2	195	2
79	Liebenstein, Todd	DE	6-6	255	3
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	250	4
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	250	2
73	May, Mark	G	6-6	288	4
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-3	249	14
83	McGrath, Mark	WR	5-11	175	3
57	Milot, Rich	LB	6-4	237	6
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	5
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	204	13
29	Murphy, Mark	FS	6-4	210	8
21	Nelms, Mike	KR	6-1	185	5
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	233	6
44	Riggins, John	RB	6-2	235	13
80	Seay, Virgil	WR	5-9	175	4
60	Simmons, Roy	G-T	6-3	264	5
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	260	12
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	198	11
	Vines, Vic	S	6-0	190	2
88	Walker, Rick	TE	6-4	235	8
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	6
24	Washington, Anthony	CB	6-1	204	4
25	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	179	8
47	Williams, Greg	FS	5-11	185	3
84	Williams, Mike	TE	6-4	251	3
	Winckler, Bob	G	6-3	290	2
39	Wonsley, Otis	RB	5-10	214	4

Head Coach: Joe Gibbs (NFL Record: 36-12)

1983 Data

Record: 14-2-0, 1st NFC East
Total Offense: 383.7 yds. per game
Total Defense: 329.0 yds. per game
Scoring Offense: 33.8 ppg.
Scoring Defense: 20.8 ppg.
Leading Rusher: John Riggins, 1347 yds., 24 TDs.
Leading Passer: Joe Theismann, 276-459-11, 3714 yds., 29 TDs.
Leading Receiver: Charlie Brown, 78 rcpts., 1225 yds., 8 TDs.

1983 RESULTS

30	Dallas	31
23	Philadelphia	13
27	Kansas City	12
27	Seattle	17
37	Los Angeles Raiders	35
38	St. Louis	14
47	Green Bay	48
38	Detroit	17
27	San Diego	24
45	St. Louis	7
33	New York Giants	17
42	Los Angeles Rams	20
28	Philadelphia	24
37	Atlanta	21
31	Dallas	10
31	New York Giants	22

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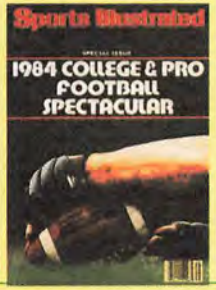

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